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Petruski limps out
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Armstrong injury

De Glanville
back to face
Australians

By David Handberg
Rugby Correspondent

THE TIMES

50P

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RAF Harriers on 48-hour Gulf alert

Clinton piles the pressure on Saddam

By IAN BRODIE, CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL EVANS

RAF Harrier crews were put on 48-hour Gulf alert yesterday as President Clinton ordered a second carrier battle group to the region to increase pressure on President Saddam Hussein.

Mr Clinton said the dispatch of the USS George Washington to join the USS Nimitz was the right response to the crisis provoked by Saddam in expelling from Baghdad the six American members of a United Nations weapons inspection team.

The real issue, Mr Clinton said, was to stop Saddam from reconstituting his weapons of mass destruction. "This is not a replay of the Gulf War, this is about the security of the 21st Century." He added that Saddam's actions had ensured that sanctions against his country would remain "until the end of time or the end of his regime".

USS George Washington will arrive in the Gulf in a week, increasing the number of American carrier-based planes in the region to 100 combat and 50 support aircraft.

They could soon be boosted by HMS Invincible, which is sailing from the Caribbean to Gibraltar, where it will pick up six RAF Harrier GR7 ground attack aircraft next Wednesday. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, told the Commons: "The British Government is determined to stand firm against Saddam Hussein."

Israel, too, warned Iraq yesterday that it would respond to any aggression and the Tel Aviv newspaper Ma'ariv reported that any chemical or biological attack on Israel could lead to the dropping of at least one neutron bomb.

The neutron bomb, an enhanced radiation nuclear weapon, was known in the 1970s as a "clean" bomb because of its ability to kill troops on the battlefield without destroying neighbouring cities from blast waves.

The warning to Iraq was said to have been delivered this week by the cabinet minister Ariel Sharon through Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Yesterday, however, neither Madeleine Albright nor Benjamin Netanyahu would discuss the possibility of military action against Iraq.

The US Secretary of State and the Israeli Prime Minister had discussed the crisis in London, and Mrs Albright also met Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in Edinburgh. She hoped that diplomacy, combined with a "robust military presence in the Gulf", would persuade Iraq to allow UN arms inspectors to operate freely on its soil.

"We are convinced this is the best way to convince Saddam Hussein to reverse course," she said.

Mr Netanyahu said the whole world was concerned with what was happening in Iraq and he supported American efforts to find a suitable end to Iraqi infractions. "We live in a tough neighbourhood," he said.

But in Baghdad, Muhammad Saeed al-Sahaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, called on the UN Security Council to stop reiterating "American rhetoric" and start serious dialogue to resolve the weapons monitoring dispute.

Asked how close Iraq was to a military confrontation with the US, he said: "How near (are) the Americans and their stooges, the British, from launching an aggression against Iraq? Well, any moment. This would not surprise us at all."

The American Administration was certainly busy trying to win international support. Mr Clinton made several calls to foreign leaders and met King Hussein of Jordan who was in the US for a check-up after prostate surgery.

If America wants a pretext for military action, it could come tomorrow when an American U2 spy plane is due to fly over Iraq. Washington has said that any attack on a U2 would be viewed as an act of war.



Dolly Kyle Browning, who was Bill Clinton's mistress for three decades, has broken her silence to talk to The Times. They met when she was 11 and parted after a high school reunion three years ago. Interview, page 3

INSIDE

Hague at school

William Hague would send his children to state schools, he says in an article about his schooldays. He reveals that he developed a taste for beer while helping his father deliver soft drinks. Page 19

Lara, the spy

Archive material has come to light suggesting that one of the most celebrated love affairs of this century was a sham: that the inspiration for Lara in Dr Zhivago was a KGB informer. Page 13

Tesco offer

The banking arm of the Tesco supermarket group has had to offer compensation payments to thousands of customers only four months after it was established. Page 27

Dallaglio leads

Lawrence Dallaglio leads England for the first time against Australia at Twickenham to open a searching month of matches against the leading powers of southern rugby. Pages 33-35

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RUC warns ceasefire is under threat

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch has given a warning that IRA rebels opposed to the peace process could break the ceasefire.

A memorandum sent to police commanders across Northern Ireland advised: "It is possible that dissident elements of the Provisional IRA may not feel constrained by the current ceasefire. Local commanders should be aware of this situation and take it into consideration as part of the overall threat."

RUC sources said that the memorandum was a prudent precaution but confirmed the seriousness with which the security forces regard the recent resignations of the IRA's quartermaster general, who controlled its arms dumps, and several other key men.

The IRA issued a statement on Thursday denying reports of major splits and insisting the movement remained "in tact, united and committed". Sinn Fein emphasises that the ceasefire is stable.

IRA split, page 20

Brown to cut income tax starting rate to 10p in his next Budget

By NICHOLAS WOOD

PLANS for a new starting rate of income tax of 10p will be announced by Gordon Brown in 10 days. The proposal, likely to cost the Treasury £25 billion, will form the most eye-catching feature of the Chancellor's pre-Budget report on November 25.

Barring unforeseen economic troubles, it will be confirmed in March when Mr Brown unveils his next Budget. It would then come into effect in April in the new financial year.

The Chancellor wants a new, reduced starting rate of income tax to benefit the low paid. He also sees a 10p initial rate as critical to the success of his welfare-to-work programme for the young jobless and the long-term unemployed, which is to be

launched early in the new year, backed by £3.5 billion from the windfall tax. He believes it would give the jobless a real incentive to move off the dole.

A 10p starting rate would be Britain's lowest since an 8.75p rate in the early 1960s. But it would be prohibitively expensive if Mr Brown were to apply it to the slice of income presently covered by the 20p starting rate. The Inland Revenue estimates the loss to the Exchequer would be in the region of £10 billion. The Chancellor is expected to go for a phased introduction.

Labour has made no secret of its plans to slash the starting rate of income tax. But it has been cautious about the timing. In its election manifesto, it spoke of a 10p rate as a "long-term objective". In his July Budget, Mr Brown

said he would make the change when it was "prudent to do so". But he has since become more bullish, saying the goal was in sight.

But The Times has learnt that with the economy running well and tax revenues buoyant, Mr Brown is intent on confounding sceptical Tories and pressing ahead with his reform.

His pre-Budget report, on which he will consult before announcing final proposals, will give the strongest hint yet that he is on track. It will be entitled a "Fairer Tax System".

At present, for a single person, the first £4,045 of income is tax free. The next £4,100 is taxed at 20p and the subsequent £26,100 attracts tax at 23p. Above £34,245, the top rate of 40p applies.

The Treasury is believed to be studying two ways of

phasing in a 10p rate, both costing about £2.5 billion. One way would be to levy tax at 10p on the first slice of taxable income, probably £1,000, while retaining the 20p rate for the next £3,100. Alternatively, a 10p rate could replace the 20p rate but for a smaller income band of £1,500.

Mr Brown is planning other tax changes intended to help the low paid. He is believed to be studying plans for an end to the independent taxation of men and women as part of changes aimed at making it more feasible to tax child benefit and to introduce a tax credit for low-earning families. He also believes that a national minimum wage will assist the attack on poverty.

Other changes - involving equal treatment of all forms of taxes on savings - are being considered.

Funeral smokescreen for 'quitter' Jowell

By JOANNA BALE



PERHAPS it was the thought of sitting under a banner saying Quitter of the Year that spurred Tessa Jowell to pull out of an awards ceremony at the last minute.

Perhaps the spin-doctors, alarmed by the prospect of the minister at the heart of the Government's tobacco sponsorship U-turn handing out prizes for an anti-smoking charity, ordered her to withdraw.

We shall probably never know. But the evening before yesterday's ceremony, the Public Health Minister office rang the Quiltline charity to say she could not attend

because of a mysterious pressing, personal engagement. No further explanation was given and a replacement in the form of Brookside actress Lesley Nightingale was found.

Yesterday it emerged that she had gone to the funeral of Shirley Rees, a former secretary of her Dulwich constituency who died last week. But this did not satisfy some sceptics convinced that she was making excuses to avoid flak over the decision to exempt Formula One motor racing from a proposed tobacco advertising ban.

Clive Bates, director of ASH - Action on Smoking and Health - who attended the awards at the Langham

Hotel, said: "A funeral still does not explain why she cancelled at such short notice. You usually get a few days' notice of funerals, but she cancelled the night before."

Others at the awards said it was "too much of a coincidence" that Ms Jowell cancelled her appearance after publication on Thursday of fresh evidence linking motor sport and smoking.

Karen Griffiths, who won the award, said: "I am thrilled at winning but a little disappointed about not receiving my award from a government minister. It would have been a nice gesture for Ms Jowell to have come along despite all the controversy."

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TODAY IN THE TIMES



'It shows graphic scenes of lesbian sex, drug taking and violence'

The Prodigy's shocking new video
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'From the age of 15 I delivered beer to the pubs and clubs of Rotherham'

William Hague on his schooldays
PAGE 19



'The doctor sucks out the water, replaces it with silicone, creating a flexible, dry, odourless corpse'

The German way of death
PAGE 9

Hague says Blair must come clean

Labour finds itself under siege as accusations grow over disputed donations from motor racing boss, reports Philip Webster

WILLIAM HAGUE last night told Tony Blair to come clean about his meeting in October with Bernie Ecclestone after Labour admitted that it had approached the Formula One boss for fresh donations after the general election.

The Tory leader demanded publication of the minutes of the meeting between Mr Blair and Mr Ecclestone on October 16, as the Prime Minister ended his worst week since the election by defiantly declaring that his decision to exempt Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban had been right.

Mr Hague accused Mr Blair of not giving a properly frank and open statement to the Commons on Wednesday and added that the truth was being dragged out day by day. "The Prime Minister should now publish the minutes of the meeting that he had with Formula One. It beggars

belief that the Prime Minister would have such an obviously sensitive meeting without wishing to have a proper record of the discussions."

The Government's latest difficulty came after an interview by Mr Ecclestone in which he denied offering a second donation — apparently contradicting Labour's letter to the public standards watchdog saying that he had.

In fact, it emerged that Labour's fundraisers had approached Mr Ecclestone and other leading pre-election donors after May 1 with a view to trying to secure more money.

"They were doing the job for which they are being paid," Labour sources said yesterday. Even so, ministers

wondered whether it was wise even to have been thinking of getting further donations at a time when the tobacco policy was under review.

In the course of those discussions they learnt from Mr Ecclestone's staff that he was prepared to give more money, a point that has been confirmed by sources close to the Formula One boss.

However, no sum was agreed and Mr Ecclestone personally made no offer. At some point during the discussions the Labour fundraisers made plain that they could not take another donation from Mr Ecclestone because of the pending and sensitive decision on tobacco sponsorship. Labour sought guidance from

Sir Patrick Neill, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, as to whether that was a position it should maintain when it wrote to him last Friday.

An air of siege remained over the Government last night, with various television and radio programmes stating that it had not taken up their invitations to put up spokesmen to discuss the issue.

Senior ministers were privately exasperated that the controversy had refused to die, and regretted that Mr Blair's staff had not warned him against the meeting with Mr Ecclestone.

The former chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who is waiting to take up a

post as non-executive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that when the Prime Minister met Formula One chiefs in Downing Street last month he might have been genuinely persuaded by their arguments.

"It is inescapable that the only reason they got through the front door of No 10, and the only reason they were given a personal audience with the Prime Minister to tell him they would like him to overrule his Government, was because Mr Ecclestone had given a very large amount of money," he said.

Downing Street said that no formal minute had been taken of Mr Blair's meeting with Mr Ecclestone and Max Mosley, president of Formula One's ruling body.

Letters, page 23

Sport network wins £160m from lottery

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a national sports academy received a massive boost yesterday as the Government announced that it was increasing its lottery funding from £100 million to £160 million.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, hailed the move as an "historic opportunity" for British sport as he unveiled revamped plans for the academy which will include at least 12 regional centres of excellence.

Training and sports medical centres will be set up throughout the United Kingdom, with eight in England, several in Scotland and one each in Wales and Northern Ireland. The network will receive up to £100 million a year.

The site of the headquarters of the academy, which is to be named the United Kingdom Sports Institute, will be in Sheffield, the East Midlands or Oxfordshire. A decision will be made by the end of the year. Mr Smith said the headquarters, which will receive up to £60 million a year, would offer first-class facilities for a range of Olympic sports such as athletics, road cycling, judo, swimming, tennis and triathlon. There will also be an

administrative headquarters in London.

Mr Smith said: "These proposals offer an historic opportunity to equip our very best sportsmen and women with access to the most modern facilities and technical back-up essential to compete — and win — at the highest levels. Future generations of medal winners will acknowledge their debt to the decisions we have announced today."

The institute will also provide coaching, medical and nutritional facilities for team sports such as football, cricket and rugby league. This came as a relief to team sports, which had feared that they would be excluded from the academy.

In an interview with BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Smith said that cricket and football had presented proposals for separate institutes that would cater for their particular needs. The Culture Secretary added: "As far as coaching and training facilities go, they want to put together something that is focused very much on their own needs. We strongly support that and want that to be part of the overall network."



London firemen, who fear station closures, protesting outside the Department of Environment yesterday

Firemen warn of strike action over cuts

Hundreds of firefighters yesterday lobbied the Department of the Environment as part of a campaign against spending cuts. The Fire Brigades Union called for enough funding to prevent job losses and station closures in

London. The union has given warning that it will hold a ballot for industrial action if the cuts go ahead. Mick Shaw, a member of the union's executive council, said: "If London's firefighters are on strike and troops are

brought on to the capital's streets, the Government will have to address the issue of fire service underfunding. The union wants a meeting with John Prescott, the Environment Secretary, to discuss the issue."

Minimum wage 'no use' with exceptions

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

UNION leaders yesterday told Peter Mandelson to stop interfering in preparations for a national minimum wage. They attacked suggestions attributed to the Minister without Portfolio of widespread exemptions according to region or size of company.

Mr Mandelson took the unusual step of making clear publicly that he had never argued for exemptions from the new wage on the basis of region, sector or size of firm.

He said, however, that he had raised with colleagues whether the Government would have enough flexibility after the new statutory minimum was introduced to "refine" policy in the light of events.

The difficulty appears to have arisen when Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, misinterpreted Mr Mandelson's call for flexibility as "not ruling out exemptions."

Hector MacKenzie, associate general secretary of Unison, said: "Any suggestion of widespread exemptions would make a mockery of the statutory minimum wage. The Low Pay Commission should be allowed to get on with its work without interference from ministers without portfolio."

Gypsies told to stay indoors during march

By ADRIAN LEE

CZECH and Slovak Gypsies have been told to stay off the streets of Dover today as extra officers were brought in to police a rally by the National Front.

The extreme right-wing group hopes to profit from resentment against the several hundred Gypsies living in the town on state benefit, but Kent police have imposed strict restrictions, including a ban on placards and loud-speakers, and a spokesman said that fewer than 100 people were expected to attend.

Opponents of the march have threatened to disrupt it and groups including the anti-Nazi league said that they hoped that several hundred people would join a counter-demonstration held about half a mile away. Police said that they would keep the two sides apart and that they did not expect trouble.

A group of about 50 Czechs who arrived in London on Thursday, claiming that they were fleeing the National Front, were back in Dover yesterday after Westminster Council refused to let them stay.

The National Front has been distributing leaflets in Dover town centre for the past three weekends, accusing the

Gypsies of being scroungers. The leaflet, which has also been pushed through doors, shows a picture of asylum seekers collecting benefit.

The sentiment, if not the presence of the National Front, has gained some support in Dover, where sections of the 30,000 population feel that the town is unfairly having to bear the brunt of the invasion from Eastern Europe. Petitions have circulated against the asylum-seekers and parents have threatened to withdraw pupils from schools rather than see them share classes with Gypsy children.

An elderly woman translator working for Kent Social Services was verbally abused and, it was claimed, one shopkeeper posted a No Slovaks sign on his door last weekend until threatened with legal action.

"Feeling has grown against them recently," Annie Ledger of the Migrants' Helpline said. "They are being sworn at as they walk past pubs." She said they were afraid of the National Front because it was the sort of opposition they were trying to escape. "Most have had unpleasant experiences with what they call skin-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lecturer awarded £44,000 over bias

The University of Manchester was ordered to pay £44,880 to one of its lecturers after it was found guilty of racial discrimination by an industrial tribunal in Birmingham. Asif Qureshi, an expert in international law, complained that he had been passed over for promotion in favour of a junior white colleague. Since the hearing, the law department has agreed to make him senior lecturer with pay backdated to 1994.

Refugee victory

A Nigerian pro-democracy activist and his son are to be allowed to rejoin their family in Britain after being deported by Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary. An immigration adjudicator ruled that Joyce Onibiyio should be granted refugee status, giving her husband Abdul and son Ade the right to return.

Arts review

Sir Richard Eyre, the director, has assured the Arts Council that he intends to examine all the options facing the Royal Opera, Royal Ballet and English National Opera in heading a review team exploring their future. Others to join the team include Mary Allen, the Royal Opera House's chief executive.

Sex trial halted

A trial at Cardiff Crown Court where Judge John Prosser compared a sex attack with a trip to the dentist was halted yesterday. Harold Baker, 48, from Gwent, was released on bail and may face a retrial on charges of sexual assaults on two women. Judge Prosser will give his reasons for stopping the trial on Monday.

Diana tribute

The public school attended by Diana, Princess of Wales, could become a centre for teenagers suffering from eating disorders, serious diseases and domestic violence. Parents of former pupils at West Heath School in Sevenoaks, Kent, which closed this year, have drawn up plans for the Beth Marie Centre to move there.

PC cleared

A policeman sentenced to three months' jail after being found guilty of assaulting a brick-wielding drunk was cleared on appeal yesterday. PC Jonathan Walters, 34, of Foots Cray, Kent, told Southwark Crown Court he did not strike a single illegal blow against Eric Edwards. Scotland Yard may reinstate him.

Witness Bill

The Government is to introduce new laws to control the payment of witnesses in criminal cases by newspapers. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, told the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee his department would be working to produce a draft Bill towards the end of the current session.

Nice one, Cyril

A crow which had half its beak ripped off in a fight with a fox has had a replacement built using car filler paste, strips of metal and black enamel paint. Kevin McCullen, a vet, made up the prosthetic beak when Cyril the crow was taken into his surgery in Farnborough, Hampshire, with the top half of its beak missing.

Custody envoy claims immunity

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN AMERICAN diplomat involved in a custody battle with his wife said yesterday that the English courts had no right to prevent him taking his children to the United States because he had diplomatic immunity.

The man had taken his two daughters with him when his tour of duty ended despite a High Court order giving custody to his wife. The United States is a signatory of the Hague Convention and thus recognises decisions made in courts in other countries that have signed the convention.

Yesterday he challenged attempts to make him return the children to his wife.

The support of a barrister for the United States government, Christopher Greenwood told the Court of Appeal: "There was no jurisdiction for the order to be made in the High Court. The defendant is covered by diplomatic immunity."

But the appeal judges ordered an urgent full hearing of the case. Lord Justice Ward said: "It seems surprising that a country which is a signatory to the Hague Convention on the wrongful removal of children and child abduction should be able to escape the ordinary operation of the convention by claiming immunity."

The judges asked for the Attorney-General to join the full hearing to help with the law on diplomatic immunity and the "harsh clash between the laws

of one international convention on child protection and another, the Vienna Convention on diplomatic immunity."

Parallel proceedings are taking place in America, where the man is asking judges to give him custody of the children, aged 10 and 13, against the ruling of the English High Court.

Lord Justice Ward said that the mother, a German national, married the American diplomat in 1982 when he was at the US embassy there. He was posted to Britain in 1994. They began divorce proceedings in July, but the father left Britain to return to America with the children despite the mother's protests that they were being taken out of the courts' jurisdiction without consent.

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Clinton's



Sweet taste of turning sour



Lecture awards £44,000 over bid

Refugee victim

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Winn

Clinton's 'Pretty Girl' tells of 33-year affair

Tom Rhodes in Dallas talks to a sexual addict about her illicit liaison with the world's most powerful man

HE CALLED her My Pretty Girl, but she knew him as plain Billy Clinton: the man with whom Dolly Kyle Browning claims she maintained an affair for three decades — a relationship which ended only when he became President of the United States.

For years Mrs Browning, 49, has kept her silence. Even when the Clinton campaign threatened to destroy her if she co-operated with a tabloid magazine in 1992, she protected his privacy. But now she has entered a fictional account of their partnership and, as President Clinton faces the embarrassment of the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, a trial for which Mrs Browning has been subpoenaed to testify, she has finally agreed to talk for the first time about 33 years in Mr Clinton's thrall.

It is an extraordinary and often sad story which began on a golf course in Arkansas when she was 11 and ended at the thirtieth reunion of their high-school class in Hot Springs three years ago.

During an interview at the Dallas home she shares with her third husband, Mrs Browning described an affair that devastated her life, a sometimes sexual and emotional relationship that she still finds hard to discuss.

While she is clearly an addictive personality and openly admits to more than a decade in therapy to resolve her sexual addiction, Mrs Browning said her unrequited love for Mr Clinton should have ended where it began, in the classroom at Hot Springs.

"I would say that his being President of the United States is absolutely irrelevant," she said. "Being in love with someone who is not emotionally available is unhealthy and ultimately destructive."

"And it can be romanticised and it can be rationalised but once it was clear that the relationship was not going to go properly towards marriage, then it should have been over."

The two apparently were immediately attracted to each other but never had any sexual contact at school. It was only afterwards, when she was at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and then moved to Dallas that they would spend countless hours together, sometimes talking into the night, taking long drives and occasionally arranging clandestine meetings in hotels.

As she tells it, they corresponded regularly and, whenever she returned to Arkansas to stay with her mother or sister, Mr Clinton would call and they would meet. She was invited to parties with friends and, when he became the state Governor, functions at the mansion, most often when Hillary Clinton was away.

A competent musician — she played the organ in her local church from an early age — Mrs Browning wrote two dozen love songs for the nascent politician. "There would



CLINTON

“I felt that Billy did trust me a lot and that is what makes me uncomfortable talking about this”

be times when it would be sexual and there would be many more times when it was not. It wasn't a relationship where every time we got together we went to bed," she said. "We had this attraction and I have to think it was mutual. We talked a lot, we corresponded with each other. And Billy would use me as a sounding board a lot about his political ambitions."

Mrs Browning, a Southern girl to the roots of her blonde hair, described the Hot Springs of their childhood as a hotbed of adultery. Only faithful couples warranted conversation. It was a den of gambling and insider dealing, an early influence that many of his critics believe has been reflected throughout Mr Clinton's career, whether in the Whitewater fiasco or the raising of irregular funds for his re-election last year.

As their affair progressed, Mrs Browning saw two marriages fall apart. By 1986 she was sleeping with multiple partners and decided to enter

therapy for her sexual addiction. It was there that counsellors recommended she write down her feelings about the relationship, sentiments that appeared recently as fiction in *Purposes of the Heart*, her first novel.

Publishers in New York looked at the manuscript and said that Mrs Browning could command a six-figure advance if she would write a factual account. Her intention, she says, was never to expose Bill Clinton, and so she declined.

Instead her husband, Doc Browning, a physical education teacher at St Mark's School, a highly regarded Texas establishment, said he would publish the book at home. By word of mouth, thousands of copies have been sold of the thinly disguised account of President Cameron Coulter and Kelly McCain, his childhood sweetheart.

Although trained as a lawyer, she had wanted to be a novelist and the book is merely the first in a Southern gothic trilogy spanning generations. Mr Clinton, she said, had encouraged her writing and, while she is not certain whether he has read the book, he never asked her not to publish.

Instead, Mrs Browning found herself pursued at the beginning of 1992 by an American supermarket tabloid. When she asked for support from Mr Clinton, her brother, Walter Kyle, then working on the Democratic campaign, telephoned her to say that she would be "destroyed" if she decided to co-operate.

"It was a very hurtful thing," she said. "I felt doubly betrayed by Billy and my own brother. My anger was not at the threat that they would destroy me. My anger was that neither Billy nor my brother knew me well enough to know that I would never have done that. I just wanted some support."

At the time, the Clinton campaign was reeling from the revelations of his affair



Dolly Kyle Browning with Doc, her third husband; and at 15 as a high-school senior in Hot Springs after she met the future President



with Jennifer Flowers, the former cabaret singer, who claimed to have had a 12-year affair with Mr Clinton in Arkansas. He denied her claim which nearly derailed his initial run for the White House.

"They thought I was going to be another Jennifer Flowers," recalled Mrs Browning. "I didn't see any depth in that relationship. I saw that as a 12-year one-night stand."

She had long questioned Mr Clinton's loyalty, not merely with women but also with those who had made his career possible. When he saw, for example, that Senator William Fulbright, his mentor, was losing in the 1974 campaign, Mr Clinton refused to visit his headquarters. "I don't want to be associated with a loser," he told Mrs Browning.

During their affair, of course, Mrs Browning admits that both she and Mr Clinton were oblivious to the effects their treacherous affair might be having on her spouse and children as well as Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. "Obviously, it would have affected Chelsea whether she knows it or not but it was always very important for Billy to be a good father to Chelsea."

In her book, Mrs Browning describes Hillary Clinton (Mallory) as an unwashed northeasterner who never shaved her legs and smelt strange. When interviewed, however, she said: "It's a reflection on me, a small-town Southern girl who had never been exposed to a woman who looked like that. In Arkansas, women shaved their legs. I will say this, at 50, Hillary looks twice as good as she did at 25. She really has changed quite a bit."

Mrs Browning, like Ms Flowers, now finds herself at the centre of the most embarrassing case of Mr Clinton's

genitalia. Mrs Browning will only confirm that she has spoken to both sides in the case.

Then she returns to the day of the reunion at Hot Springs. As if in a trance she speaks of how the President finally found her among the throng of his former classmates.

"I just looked him in the face

and said, 'You're such an asshole.' And then he says to me, 'You have to understand what I was feeling at the time,' and I said 'I'm sick of understanding what Billy Boy was feeling, what Billy Boy was going through. I turned down half a million dollars for your head on a platter, it's too bad you don't know what loyalty

means.' That is what I told him." The President, she says, took her to one side where, guarded by secret agents, the couple spoke for almost an hour. He apologised, said Mrs Browning, but then asked her whether she would like to come to Washington and start again as before.

"He still didn't understand me and I knew then that it was over," she said. "But it's hard for me to believe that two people could have a relationship that lasted that long without some residual feeling."

Mrs Browning said: "I'm not saying it's love, I'm not saying it's anything more than nostalgia. I don't think it can go from such intensity and duration to just nothing."

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HILLARY

“It was not done with malice...it was simply my own lack of experience. I will say this, at 50 Hillary looks twice as good as at 25. She really has changed quite a bit”



JONES

“Gag order or not I would have no intention of commenting on her”



FLOWERS

“His relationship with her was a 12-year one-night stand”

Sweet taste of success starts turning sour for Spice Girls

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ALL IS NOT well in Spice World. The greatest exponents of British Girl Power since Boadicea were booted off a stage in Spain on Thursday night after a week that showed the fault lines spreading beneath their all-conquering, platform-booted feet.

Last night the Spice Girls were appearing on Italian television after keeping a low profile at a hotel outside Rome. Days after sacking their manager they had time in the Eternal City to ponder how much longer their own brief careers might last. They even learnt that the bookies made them only second favourites for the Christmas No 1 — behind the Teletubbies.

They were probably in a state of shock. On Thursday they received a rough reception from the audience at the annual Premios Ondas awards ceremony in Barcelona. The gala evening had been delayed after a presenter announced that the girls were insisting that photographers be removed from the auditorium because their contracts stipulated that they should not be snapped while they were performing. The photographers refused to leave and when the quintet finally appeared on stage they were booed and hissed. After their performance they left to more cat calls from the audience of representatives of Spanish television, radio, film and music.

This is not the first time that



Grating Spice: Geri Halliwell "won" a readers' poll

the band have had arguments with photographers, but it was the first time that the girls had been so unceremoniously treated and also the first when their former manager, Simon Fuller, has not been there to smooth things over. Last weekend the news broke that the girls had dumped Mr Fuller and his entourage of publicity officers, minders and fixers.

The reasons for the dumping of their Svengali Spice, as always with the Spice Girls, were obscured by tabloid claim and counter-claim. Cer-

tainly, there appears to have been tension within the group over Mr Fuller's close relationship with Emma Bunton, Baby Spice. Whether their relationship was over is unclear. Furthermore, there has been speculation over the extent and nature of the work the Spice Girls were doing. Their promotional work had been extensive and included marketing a whole range of products from Pepsi to lollipops. An opinion poll showed that the public was fed up with seeing the Spice Girls' faces on everything.

For Mr Fuller, the sacking was undoubtedly a blow. According to sources close to him, he believed that after the release of their film on Boxing Day and next year's world tour he might guide the girls into solo careers. Nevertheless, he will walk away from the relationship with an estimated £10-£15 million payoff and has plenty of other stars on his books. There was said to be an air of relief in his office this week that he can return to other clients. "He was lost in Spice World for months," one insider said. "It's great to have him back."

But while Mr Fuller might have plenty of projects to keep him busy, whether the Spice Girls themselves? Their public relations firm said that members of their record company were now looking after their affairs on their current spin around Europe and a statement about new management was expected in the near future.

But the problems for the band were starting before Mr Fuller's departure. The sales of their recently-released album *Spiceworld* have been disappointing, despite a surprisingly good reception from the critics and shooting straight to No 1.

Now the media backlash has started. This week *The Mirror* asked its readers to nominate the Spice Girl they found most irritating and Geri Halliwell (Ginger) won with 35 per cent of the vote. William Hill has stopped taking bets on which girl will be first to quit the group.



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IN THE HILLS of Tennessee, the eagerness of younger generations is rewarded with the knowledge of older ones.

Charles Ray McGee is said to be the best dog trainer in Moore County (that's him with his pride, Jake). So he's just the man young Bob Hobbs wants to talk to about getting his own pup squared away. The best traditions here, from champion dogs to prize-winning whiskey, have always been handed down. After a sip of Jack Daniel's, you'll be glad they always will be.



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The national bathroom

Ex-SAS men in mission to free hostage couple

A TEAM of former SAS men is to fly to war-torn Chechnya to try to rescue a British couple held hostage since July.

Details of the perilous mission to the breakaway Russian republic were released yesterday by Lord McAlpine of West Green, a former Tory party treasurer, who has formed close links with the Chechen government. Costs of up to £250,000 will be met by an umbrella group of business leaders in the region.

The team of two to four former SAS officers, specialists in anti-kidnapping techniques, is working on details of a rescue plan before leaving for Chechnya over the next few weeks. It hopes to have Jon James and Camilla Carr, both 35, of Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire, home in time for Christmas.

The Foreign Office and Scotland Yard have been informed of the move, which was applauded yesterday by relatives of the kidnap victims. It is also being backed by the Chechen Government, which will instruct its anti-terrorist brigade to co-operate with the former British soldiers.

Helen Carr, 35, Camilla's mother, said: "Any initiative is very welcome at this stage. Things have been completely

Lord McAlpine reveals plan to rescue Britons from war-torn Chechnya, writes Nicholas Wood

dead for months and months. Although we are very positive about the fact that we are sure they are alive, we do want them back as soon as possible."

Mr James and Ms Carr were abducted by six masked men on July 6 from their home in the Chechen capital of Grozny. They had been working for a Quaker-affiliated charity, the Centre for Peace-Making and Community Development, which runs a home in the capital for child victims of the battle for independence, which ended in an uneasy peace deal last year and a Russian withdrawal.

Since then battle-scarred Grozny, described yesterday as looking like another Hiroshima, has become the kidnapping capital of the world. Ransoms of as much as £1.25 million

have been paid to free foreigners amid claims by the Chechen Government that a black propaganda unit in Moscow is trying to undermine the new regime by selling visitors.

No ransom demand has been made in the case of the British couple. The Foreign Office told the families in September that it had reason to believe Mr James and Ms Carr were still alive.

The decision to call in the SAS, taken by a group of businessmen led by Khochbek Nukhaev, the former first deputy Prime Minister of Chechnya, is part of a wider attempt to win international recognition for the one million-strong breakaway Islamic state, which fought off the might of the Red Army.

Mr Nukhaev, reputedly Chechnya's richest man, has tried to flush out the kidnappers by offering to pay a ransom. But there were no takers, reinforcing his view that the hostage-taking is politically inspired.

Lord McAlpine, who now leads the Referendum Movement and who has visited Chechnya, said he had become involved after an appeal from the British Ambassador in Tbilisi while he was travel-



Hostages Jon James and Camilla Carr have not been seen since July. They worked for a children's charity

ling in the Near East. He said in London that the SAS men should not be regarded as mercenaries.

At least one former officer and a former NCO are working on an initial rescue plan covering intelligence, logistical and operational requirements.

He said: "They are not mercenaries. They are highly sophisticated specialists in

kidnapping, who have expertise in these sort of things over a wide area. Mr Nukhaev and his people have been introduced to the relevant specialists and instructions have been given to them.

"They are not storm-troopers. This is not Rambo; not what you see on TV and the films. They [the ex-SAS men] will go out and do their work

attached to the Chechen government forces."

Mrs Carr said she was concerned about the couple's safety, but that they had the inner strength to survive their ordeal.

"In September, there was word from the Foreign Office that they were alive, but no one knew who had done it or where they were. There has been nothing since September.

It is getting worrying of course.

"But I know they are both very strong, spiritual people. I believe that is the best way to withstand it. I just feel we have to have a lot of faith and trust."

Doris James, 67, said her son was used to roughing it and would be able to survive hardship. But she was despondent at the lack of news about him.

Speedy service keeps Henman at double

By ALIX RAMSAY AND DANIEL MCGRORY

IT WAS probably the most expensive double date in sporting history. Tim Henman had used a chartered jet and a chauffeur-driven car yesterday to ensure he became the first tennis player to compete in two tournaments on the same day.

His longest day began with a warm-up for the national championships at Telford, a press conference at 9.30am and a quarter final at 11am that he won in 53 minutes.

After a quick lunch he was driven to East Midlands airport and flown to Hanover for a match in another tournament at 6.30pm. The plan was to fly home by 10.30pm so he could get to bed before today's semi-final at Telford.

Unfortunately his double date upset a Spanish player who said that he should have been drafted into the ATP Tour world championship. Because of injuries, the ATP had to find a late substitute. The Hanover tournament traditionally ends the tennis season with a knockout among the world's top eight. Henman is ranked 17th but the ATP said that those above him could not be contacted. Not so, said Felix Mantilla who waited all night for the call that never came.

Henman was promised \$100,000 (£59,000) to beat Yevgeni Kafelnikov and up to \$40,000 just for showing up in Hanover. He gave the pay cheque to charity.

Sport, page 36



Henman: donated his pay cheque to charity

Raider who killed German tourist jailed for life

Playboy robber had terrorised a town, report Stewart Tandler and Adam Fresco

AN ARMED robber who terrorised a county town to fund a playboy lifestyle was jailed for life yesterday for the ruthless murder of a German tourist during a raid.

Alvin Black, 36, shot Johanna Czardebou in the head in front of her husband during a failed raid on a Bedford hotel. The shotgun cartridge which killed her was stolen during one of 12 attacks that plagued the town for over a year.

Frau Czardebou, 56, died as she sat sipping coffee late at night in the lounge of the Bedford County Hotel in May last year. She and other Germans were on a goodwill visit to the town, which is twinned with her home town of Bamberg in Bavaria. Wearing a balcony, Black came

into the room brandishing a sawn-off shotgun and opened fire as he made his escape.

The case received huge publicity in Germany when the party returned home. The Mayor of Bamberg said later that nothing like the killing could have happened there.

Frau Czardebou's husband, Sigurd, said from Bamberg yesterday: "We were married 33 years and had one daughter and three grandchildren. My wife worked as a cleaning lady in an employment office, and she was a very ordinary person who would not have harmed anyone... She was just in the wrong place at

the wrong time, when some madman was moved by the need to kill someone... He has left me very sad and lonely, and entirely on my own."

Yesterday at the Old Bailey Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Black: "You are a ruthless and professional criminal prepared to use violence as and when you thought it necessary. The murder of Frau Czardebou was the tragic culmination of your career in violent crime."

Black, 37, was also jailed for 21 years, to be served concurrently, for conspiracy to rob. Karlton Campbell, his 20-year-old nephew, and

Robert Skyers, 20, both from Bedford, were jailed for 13 years for conspiracy to rob, and John Stewart, 41, from St Neots, Cambridgeshire, was jailed for three years for wounding with intent.

Black had an extravagant lifestyle. He owned two expensive cars, wore smart clothes and took Caribbean holidays. He had several girlfriends in the Bedford area, including the daughter of a local Tory councillor who later gave evidence against him.

In 1985 he was sentenced to ten years for the rape of a 19-year-old nurse, he came across during a trail

of break-ins. As he left the distraught girl he claimed he was a serial rapist known as "The Fox", who in fact was another man who struck in the area. The judge who sentenced The Fox also dealt with Black and told him: "One Fox is enough in a lifetime."

After he came out of prison Black developed his career as an armed robber. Between March 1995 and June 1996, Black and his gang terrorised Bedford and stole more than £150,000. When police smashed the gang they recovered £20,000 and a small arsenal.

He would attack businesses by

day and the homes of wealthy local Bedford people by night at the rate of one a month. He halted for a few weeks to take a girlfriend on holiday to Barbados. The gang robbed one Post Office three times in four months, netting more than £106,000. A teenage boy lost his leg when a shotgun being shown off by Skyers went off accidentally in another raid. During one robbery a shopkeeper was beaten and his wife and three daughters died.

During an attack on a Top Rank centre people dived for cover as the raiders randomly opened fire. Another victim at Sandy, near Bedford, had shots fired over his head, and shots were fired at the car of a Bedford businessman.

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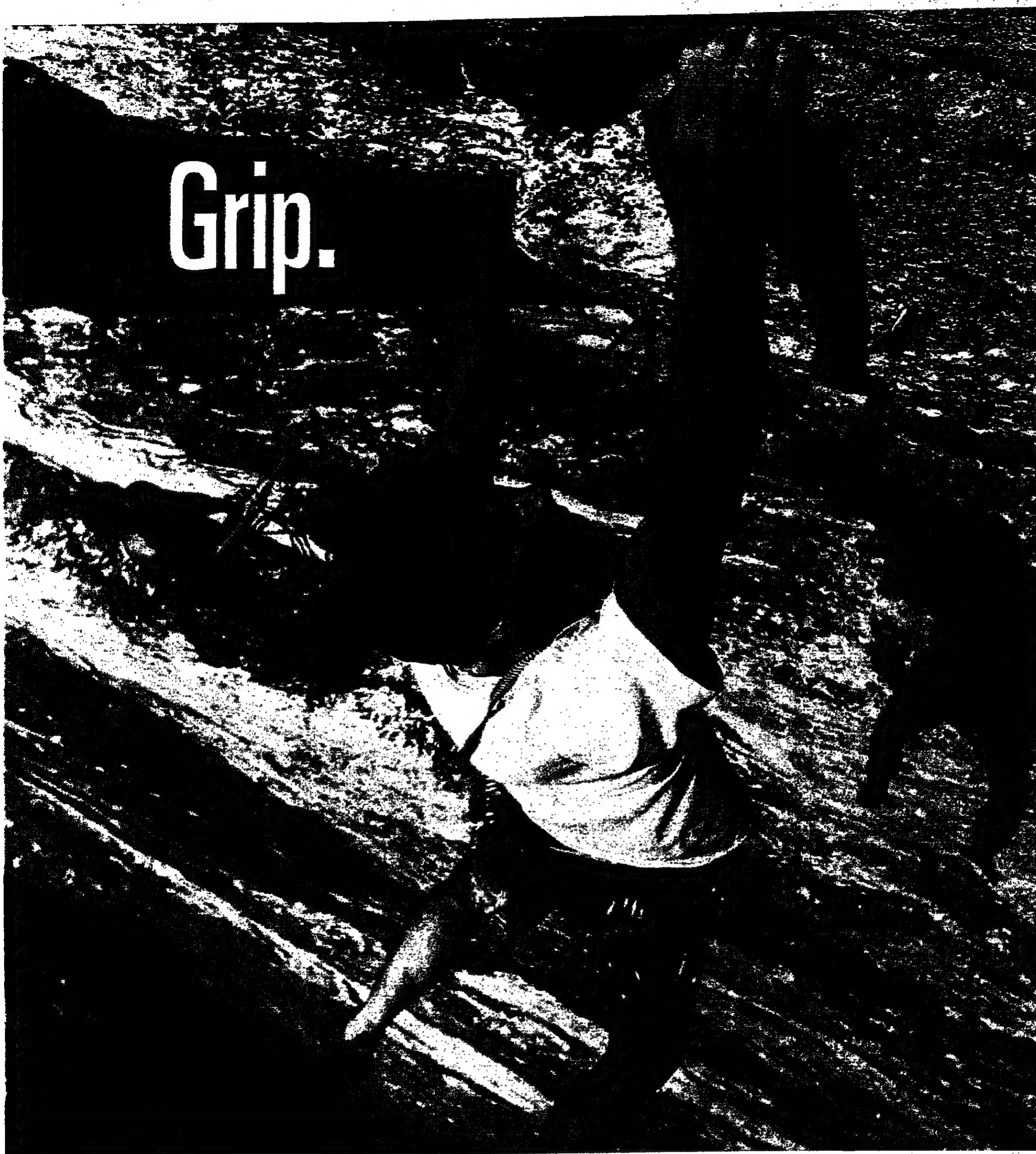
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German engineer faces jail over test-drive death

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE partner of a road crash victim was among safety campaigners who yesterday called on car manufacturers to review testing procedures after a German engineer was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving.

Klaus Menk, 47, a steering engineer with General Motors Europe, was over-taking a slow-moving Skoda on a badly lit country road on the night of January 30 when he crashed head-on with Richard Longworth, killing him.

Mr Longworth, 39, was the editor of *Get Motoring* magazine and the partner of Mary Williams, who founded the Brake road safety organisation after the death of her mother in a road accident.

Menk, from Frankfurt, was one of three General Motors engineers driving two Vauxhall Astras and a Peugeot 306 on the B655 near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, on a ten-mile circuit of public roads used by the company near its Vauxhall headquarters at Luton.

Alan Wilkie, QC, the Recorder, postponed sentence at Luton Crown Court, warning Menk that he could be jailed but that he would consider other sentences. The maximum penalty for causing death by dangerous driving is ten years' imprisonment.

The court was told that



Longworth killed in the head-on crash

engineers carried out 90 per cent of the testing at night because they did not want outsiders identifying models under evaluation. The testing could not be done effectively at speeds of less than 37-56 mph, which was within the speed limit for that stretch of road.

Ms Williams yesterday said that although Menk had 20 years' experience testing cars around the world, he had no formal training in driving in Britain. She said: "You have great potential for disaster if you employ foreign nationals without advanced driver training to drive on badly lit, rural, twisting roads in left and right-hand drive vehicles at night."

"Other commercial fleet companies who use public roads put their drivers

through advanced training to increase their awareness of risk perception." She said that Menk had admitted he did not know the Highway Code.

David Rogers, road safety adviser for RoSPA, said: "A company ought to make sure their employees have all the appropriate training to work safely in another country, whether they are operating a nuclear reactor or a car."

However Al Clarke, spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, insisted that cars were only evaluated, not tested, on open roads. "The motor industry does not carry out irresponsible testing procedures on main roads. On normal roads you have a normal driver in a normal car who is not expected to do anything outside the law." He added: "The industry does take the issue of safety very seriously. This would seem to be a very tragic incident. I don't think it is sensible in the light of it to say manufacturers should be doing this or that. You cannot legislate for everything."



Mary Williams, who has lost her mother and her partner in road accidents

Revellers cleared of attacking lone WPC

BY LIN JENKINS

FOUR men and a woman were cleared yesterday of leading a mob in an attack on a lone policewoman during a farewell celebration in Soho.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court took less than an hour to clear them of being part of a crowd of 23 who punched WPC Alison Mullins, screamed "kill her, kill her", and slammed her against a shop window.

WPC Mullins, 33, alleged that one of the accused, Paul Cooper, kicked her police van after she booted at the crowd to get out of her way at 1.35am in Frith Street in March.

The friends had been bidding farewell to one of the accused, Deborah Cross, 23, of Guildford, Surrey, who was acquitted of violent disorder and affray on the judge's direction, and another friend who were leaving the next day to travel the world for two years.

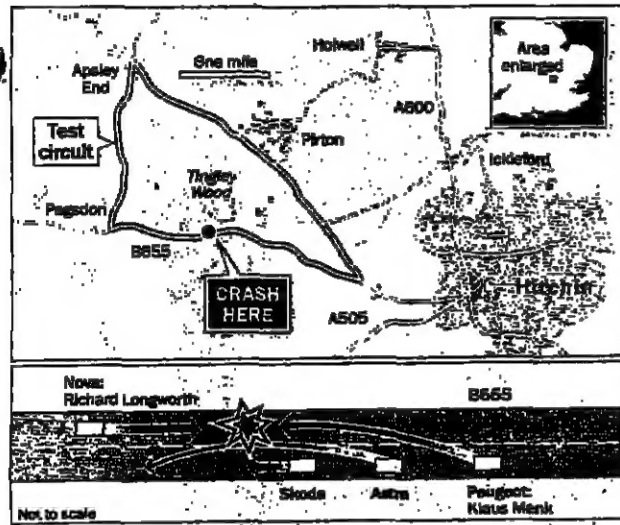
The others cleared of the same charges were: Stephen Yarnion, 23, a computer software salesman; Jack Gordon, 23, of Ashford, Surrey; Nigel Soole, 24, of Balham, southwest London; and Mr Cooper, 24, of Cobham, Surrey.

JFK, the CIA and assassination squads



The veteran investigative journalist Seymour Hersh is being savaged in America for writing a book that attacks the late John Kennedy. In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow, he presents his evidence that the president was linked to a death squad...

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Threat to classic cars

LEGISLATION to ban leaded petrol from forecourts by the end of the century threatens to force more than 650,000 classic cars off Britain's roads.

Representatives of vintage and veteran car clubs want the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, to relax the European ban on four-star petrol to save the industry, which employs more than

25,000 people and has sales worth at least £1.6 billion a year.

A report by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, *Preserving the Past for the Future*, points out that classic cars are not a pollution threat — even if they use leaded petrol — because they travel so few miles.

Classic cars. Go page 47

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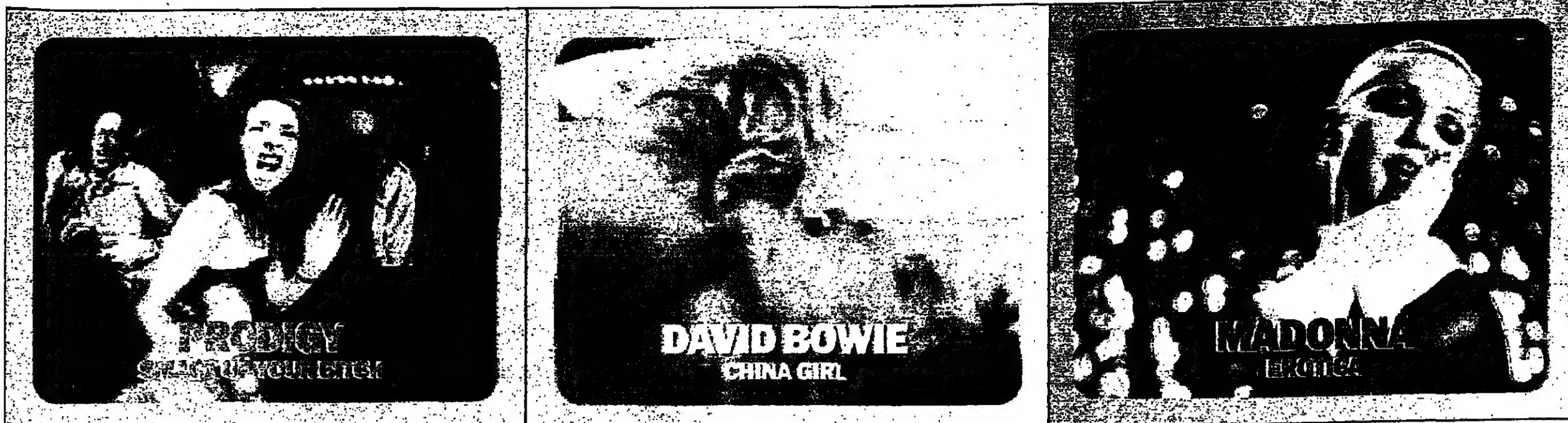
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Band pushes back the boundaries of bad taste

Carol Midgley and Des Burkinshaw on why The Prodigy made a video that most people will never see

IN THE early hours today, with most of the country asleep, a small piece of pop history was being made. The Prodigy's new video, described as the most explicit pop film ever made, was screened, uncensored, on the satellite channel MTV.

The five-minute film, which shows graphic scenes of lesbian sex, molestation, vomiting, drug taking and violence, was broadcast in the week of the British pop music chart's 45th anniversary. Bands are pushing back the boundaries of decency in their videos more than ever because of the growth in 24-hour music channels.

Eight years ago it would have been impossible to see such a video on British television. Pop music programmes were largely anodyne children's affairs. (*Top of the Pops*, *The Chart Show*) reinforcing the old-fashioned television executive's

view that only 12-year-olds listen to pop music, and artists would not have even bothered to make them.

The Prodigy's video will not be broadcast on terrestrial television. But satellite and cable channels give bands new, more adventurous outlets for their work.

Although MTV has decided to screen the video to *Smack Up Your Butch* only between the hours of 1am and 4am, the Independent Television Commission is bracing itself for a deluge of complaints on Monday. "We cannot intervene before something has been transmitted but we will be taking a good look at this video," a spokesman said. "If we feel we need to act we will."

A spokeswoman for MTV said: "We feel we are putting it on at a

reasonable time when only adults will be viewing. Yes, we may get complaints, but remember we have just had the film *Natural Born Killers* and *Pulp Fiction* on terrestrial channels screened much earlier than this."

Industry sources insist one viewing of the video will be enough to put previous music video controversies sharply into perspective. In 1983 there was uproar over a pair of bare buttocks in the video for David Bowie's *China Girl*. Two years earlier Duran Duran were forced to censor their *Girls on Film* video which featured women engaged in mud-wrestling and pillow fights. Even the uproar in 1992 over Madonna's *Erotica*

film, which featured scenes of bondage, looks tame in comparison.

But why would the most successful British band of the moment, who have made number one with

video that they know could never be shown on mainstream television? Liam Howlett, the band's songwriter, said: "Obviously The Prodigy want to take things forward — the last two videos focussed very closely on the band. Doing a video like this has helped us get away from that a bit. But really the main thinking was that seeing we were releasing a single that no one would play on radio,

we might as well make a video that no one could play either."

One television producer expressed frustration at their arrogance. "I'm passionate about this band. They've smashed the boundaries between dance and rock

music in an astonishing way. But who can give this video a prime-time slot? Frankly, they might as well not have bothered making one."

Phil Davey, series producer for ITV's morning *Chart Show*, said: "We'll be lucky if we can find ten seconds to show as a clip down our rundown of the Top Ten. Traditionally the most explicit videos are the heavy metal ones but they are not really in vogue at the moment. Videos on the whole are made by professionals who know what guidelines they have to stick to if they want them shown."

The biggest problems we have are with American soul and R'n'B acts such as Warren G and LL Cool J but they are often just the wrong side of raunchy. This is completely

different." Recently a Soul II Soul video for *Pleasure Dome* had to be cut for terrestrial television because it featured two lesbians kissing. Blur met the same problem when it tried to paste a subliminal pair of breasts into a video and EMF attempted the same effect with a penis.

Many industry sources believe the effect has been to "ghettoise" pop videos that do not suit children's television. The pop commentator Rick Sky said: "Pop videos can become more explicit now because they are no longer ruled by shows like *Top of the Pops* and *The Chart Show*."

"Television has generally treated pop music abysmally, making it essentially children's programming, but now the proliferation of late-night shows and all-night music channels means it can cater for an adult audience."

Who can give this video a prime-time slot? Frankly, they might as well not have bothered making it

their first two hits, are almost certain to have a third with their new song, despite being banned by all mainstream radio stations, and whose first-week sales of their album *Fat of the Land* sold double that of the Spice Girls, make a

Thorn in the side caught on film

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LONG-RUNNING feud between neighbours culminated in a 20th-century War of the Roses, a court was told yesterday.

Leslie Waller, a retired carpenter, grew so irritated by petals from John Bodle's roses dropping on his path that he attacked a prized bush.

But Mr Bodle had rigged up a hidden closed-circuit television camera overlooking the battlefield in an otherwise dignified backstreet in Hove, East Sussex, and caught him red-handed.

The film shows Mr Waller leaning over the wall dividing the terraced houses and picking off the flowers before hurling them on to his adversary's porch and steps. It was handed to police and Mr Waller was charged with causing £21 worth of damage to the rose bush, which has now been removed by Mr Bodle. Mr Waller denied the criminal

damage charge at Brighton Magistrates' Court, but agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months.

David Woodings, for the prosecution, said: "Mr Waller could clearly be seen pulling flower buds and petals from the bush and throwing them on top of Mr Bodle's porch and steps."

Chris Bull, for the defence, claimed there were faults on both sides but added: "He accepts there is video evidence showing him distributing some garden debris back on to his neighbour's property."

After the case Mr Bodle, 52, said: "I have had 25 years of aggro. The roses may seem a trivial thing but he has been diabolical."

After the case Mr Waller said: "Mr Bodle's garden is encroaching on my property. It is unfair. He is not just a gardening enthusiast, he is a foliage fanatic. I am sick of it."

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Anatomical art history of the

Roger Boye

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Anatomist's art house of the dead

Roger Boyes reports on a museum display of corpses preserved by the skills of Günther von Hagens, right, who is earning praise as well as arousing deep shock



HERCULES stares out of his corner, a slight smile playing across his face. Another man, less muscular, sits at a glass-top desk as if waiting for the telephone to ring, for some diversion from the daily drudgery. Around the room men and women — including a slender expectant mother

with a five-month-old fetus — silently expose themselves to a curious, and sometimes disgusted throng. They are all dead. Dr Frankenstein had his monster and Dr Günther von Hagens has his corpses, which shock and educate in about equal proportions. The Roman Catholic Church expressed outrage, doctors grumbled, critics accused the anatomy

scientist of creating a chamber of horrors, of showmanship, of artistic pretensions. And the public flocks to the Technical Museum in Mannheim, searching for the macabre, all ultimately stunned. Dr Frankenstein tried to discover the secret of life and approached the problem in an overly mechanical way; he played God and could not give his monster a soul. Dr von Hagens has more modest ambitions. He wants — with his extraordinary new methods of preserving corpses — to educate other doctors, and in this he certainly succeeds, for

there is no more concrete way of seeing an evolution of a tumour than by pumping the diseased organ full of silicone and letting people touch it. And he wants to demystify death. Few people nowadays see a corpse, yet they were a common sight — and smell — in the Middle Ages. Dr von

Damien Hirst eventually bleaches the specimen. Dr von Hagens makes his corpses touchable — and they are forever. The bodies are all donated, and indeed Dr von Hagens will soon be holding a new donor session at his Institute for Plastination in Heidelberg. Potential donors

will be able to inspect his work, his laboratory, his deep freeze and handle any organs they want — he has a disconcerting habit of placing a human heart in one's hand while chatting over a cup of tea. Every one fills in a lengthy questionnaire, detailing their motives and how they want their bodies displayed. Frau Ingeborg Haberer, 72,



Damien Hirst exhibit at the Tate Gallery

Hagens is challenging a contemporary taboo and inevitably he has landed in the middle of a fierce debate about ethical standards, good taste and the dignity of the dead.

Most of the people on display died a few years ago. The doctor's technique involves sucking out the water and fats from a body and replacing it with curable polymer, preferably silicone which creates a flexible, dry, odourless corpse. No other preservation method has had this effect: the Egyptian mummies' powder away when exposed to air, the formaldehyde favoured by the British artist

says she has decided that her body can be used by the doctor because "even as a child I was scared of being buried or being burnt". Dr Wilhelm Kriz, of Heidelberg University, agrees: "The more you know about how the body decomposes in the earth, the more attractive is the alternative of plastination." Dr von Hagens is 52, but he has already instructed his wife and colleague, Andrea Whalley, to inject his body with plastic after his death, chop it into slices and distribute them to medical institutes. "But the excitement is premature," he says. "I intend to carry on with

my work for another 30 years." He left the University of Heidelberg 17 years ago to set up his own institute which now produces a profit. The doctor shrugs off charges that he makes money out of the dead: "You only have to see how undertakers are making their profits."

The deep, irrational fear evoked by the controversial exhibition is that the corpses have been robbed of something, that the priestly call "dust to dust, ashes to ashes" links natural physical decay with the freeing of the soul. It is this that spurred the church hierarchy of Mannheim to protest publicly, although at least one cleric was less dogmatic in his opposition after touring the exhibition.

The visitors' book carries many entries along the lines: "My Christian faith has been strengthened by seeing the beauty of the body." Dr von

Hagens, like all anatomical researchers, has to come to grips with the spiritual questions. For centuries, anatomists relied on the bodies of hanged men or nameless drifters, people who had, at least by some definitions, lost their souls. But Dr von Hagens is using volunteers.

"As an anatomist I have never encountered the soul," he says. "The brain cells storing memory perish at death, meaning that death probably wipes out memory. Yet there is no ego without memory and no individual soul without ego. The question then is: Is there an individual memory that is not connected with the brain?"

Dr von Hagens denies he is trying to make art out of dead bodies ("eat your heart out, Damien Hirst," as one wit observed). But there is art in the way that he tries to restore anatomic individuality to the

corpses. Since many still have their skin, they seem approachable, even friendly — albeit full of little holes where fat has been sucked out. They are, of course, anonymous, and though relatives sometimes come to see them they can barely be recognised: the process of plastination distorts the facial features.

Stories circulate about approaches to Dr von Hagens from famous or wealthy men, including an Englishman who wanted his whole family plastinated and placed in the family tomb.

But the doctor rules out all private contracts, and the embalming of Lenin steers him away from politicians. "The last 100 years have shown that bodies used in personality cults have created more trouble than benefits."

The exhibition runs until February. As yet there are no plans to bring it to Britain.



Chamber of horrors: Dr von Hagens's Technical Museum in Mannheim, where he has preserved flesh and bone in a near life-like state



Leonardo — an artist, inventor, scientist, anatomist and geologist — is said to have robbed graves for his anatomical studies, left. By dissecting 30 corpses, he learnt the inner workings of the human body. Like Michelangelo, he exploited the expressive potential of heavily-muscled figures. Among thousands of pages of drawings, he created some of the most sublime anatomical studies. They exude both passion and precision: Leonardo compared a girl's plaited hair with rippling water.

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Queen toasts restoration of her favourite residence

Architects and artisans are praised for their work on the fire-ravaged Windsor Castle, reports Alan Hamilton



The fire at Windsor Castle capped an annus horribilis for the Queen in 1992

A DELIGHTED Queen last night hosted a party to celebrate the completion, within budget and ahead of schedule, of the largest historic building restoration project in Britain this century.

Windsor Castle, her favourite residence, was severely damaged by fire in 1992, capping a royal annus that was already horribilis from a string of family crises. To mark its return to full glory, 1,500 architects, engineers, craftsmen and labourers who have lent their skills to the task, were invited to the reception, and in the true tradition of the building industry, drank beer instead of champagne and nibbled pizzas in place of canapés.

The Queen, accompanied by

the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales who both had a major hand in directing the work, mingled with the workforce in the magnificently renovated St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room, both damaged by flames, heat and water.

Original estimates put the cost of repairing the world's largest inhabited castle at between £40 million and £60 million, with completion next spring. When Royal Household officials open the castle to the media on Monday, they will announce that the bill is likely to be under £35 million.

When, immediately after the fire, the National Heritage Secretary Peter Brooke announced that the taxpayer

would fund 'the repairs, he was met with a barrage of hostile criticism. Instead, the Queen shouldered the burden herself, opening Buckingham Palace to the public for the first time and charging visitors to enter the precincts of Windsor Castle.

When the bill is paid, entrance charges and souvenir shop profits will have contributed about £24.5 million to the cost, the balance coming from savings in the Royal Household's grant-in-aid from the Government for maintenance of the Royal Palaces.

The work, involving more than 100 rooms, has been done almost entirely by British hands: the home-grown restoration industry has learnt much from two previous ma-

for fire restoration projects, at Hampton Court and Uppark, although the Windsor project was at least six times bigger.

The star attraction of the restored apartments is St George's Hall, the 150ft-long ceremonial chamber whose roof was almost totally destroyed. In place of a low-pitched plaster ceiling, painted to look like wood, architect Giles Downes has built a full-blown Gothic hammerbeam roof of steeper pitch: it took 70 English oaks to furnish the timber.

Elsewhere, craftsmen in plaster have restored the ceiling and walls of the Grand Reception Room, judged the finest rococo interior in Britain. Its four huge chandeliers that crashed to the ground

have been reassembled with many of their original parts, retrieved by English Heritage experts sifting through 7,000 dustbins of fire debris.

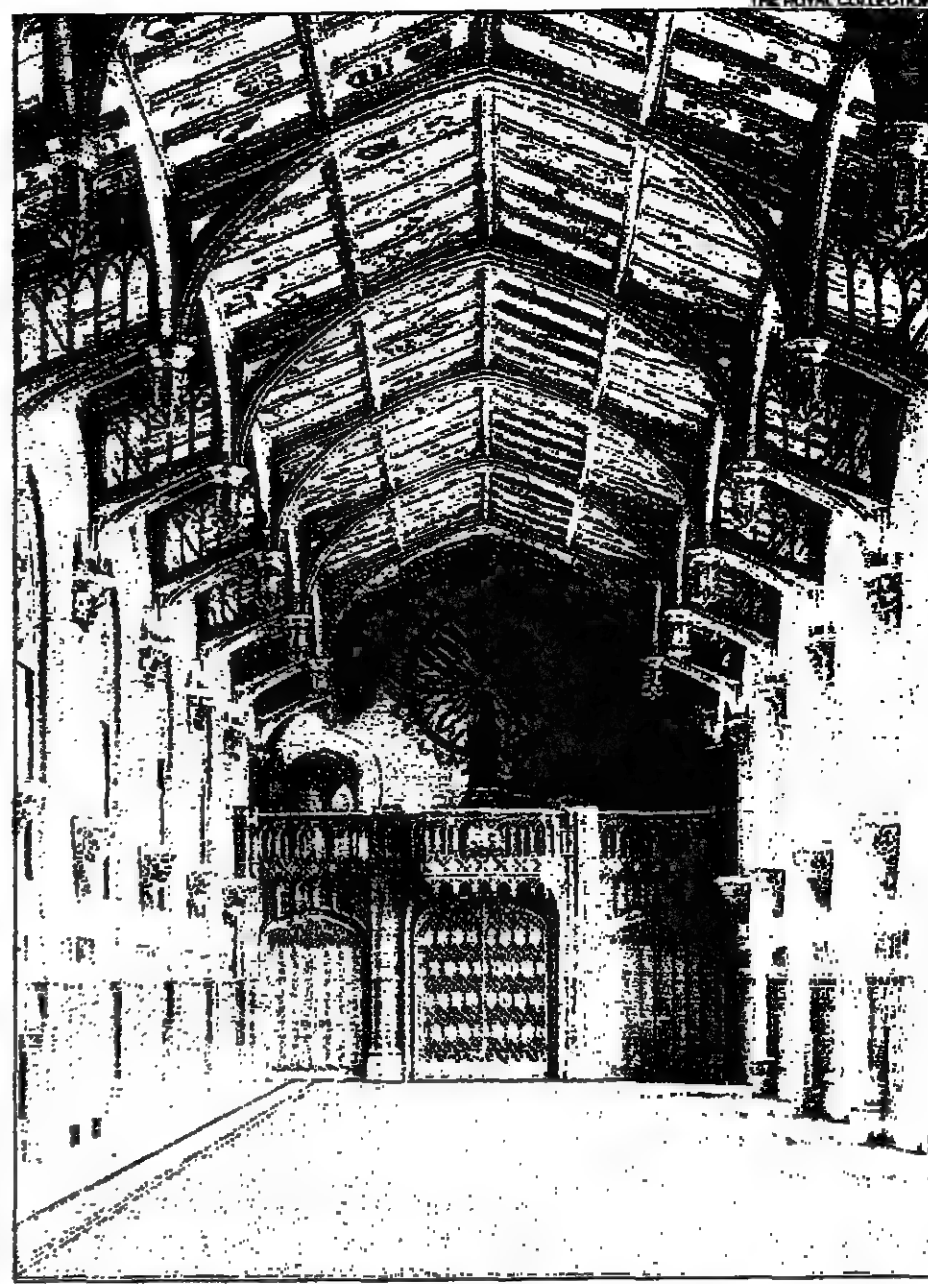
Most controversial of the restored rooms will be the private chapel, which has been remodelled as an ante-room to St George's Hall. Sidell Gibson, the architect, have created as a centrepiece a large timber umbrella made of eight laminated oak columns each supporting a fan of 25 curving oak ribs shaped like giant plants and founded on Gothic geometry.

Critics have said it is like the entrance to a fancy restaurant.

Specialist engineers faced a Herculean task in installing miles of cabling for power and light, and heating and fresh-air ducts, within the tight confines of a historic building.

Now hidden fibre-optic cables buried in the hammerbeam roof lead to carefully disguised spotlights shining on 700 painted panels depicting knights of the Garter. Television and radio feed cables have been hidden under the floor to allow the broadcast of state occasions.

Hidden behind the paneling and in dark corners is a sophisticated laser-operated fire alarm system. The Queen will be praying that it lives up to its promise. The apartments will be reopened to the public shortly after Christmas.



The magnificently renovated St George's Hall is the crowning glory of the repairs

Birthday visit wins over an anti-royalist

By Alan Hamilton

BEFORE hosting the celebrations at Windsor, the Queen yesterday visited the homeless of Central London and won over an anti-monarchist.

Elise Greenwood was celebrating her 18th birthday on the same day that the Prince of Wales was celebrating his 49th. Until the Queen visited her at Salter's City Foyer, a hostel for homeless women in Smithfield, where she has lived since June, Ms Greenwood had been no friend of royalty.

"I used to scowl at the mention of the Queen," she said later. "I didn't think she was doing much. But she is actually very lovely; she was so nice. She was very interested in everything I was doing. She asked whether the room was noisy, and about the shared kitchen."

"She asked if the two of us argue about it and I told her we didn't. I think it's great here, and I think it's good that

the Queen came to see it: it shows she is involved."

The Foyer, one of a chain of 58 throughout the country, is named after the Salters' livery company which supports it, although it is run by Centrepoint, the homeless charity of which the late Diana, Princess of Wales, was patron.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, then boarded the Royal Yacht Britannia, moored in the Pool of London on her farewell voyage, for a lunch with Service chiefs. As the crew lined up for one of their last welcomes to the monarch, the Queen greeted the Prince of Wales with a birthday kiss on both cheeks.

The Prince was guest of honour at the lunch in the vessel's state dining room. The Royal Family will see Britannia for the last time at her decommissioning in Portsmouth on December 11.

Photograph, page 32

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هكذا من الامم

Book fires up Giuliani

A MOLE in City Hall has exciting news this week: Rudolph Giuliani, the newly re-elected Mayor, is writing a book. It will, we are assured, be the biggest-selling book from New York since *Bonfire of the Vanities*.

The mole says: "It will be Mr Giuliani's own 'blueprint for America', a kind of 'anti-Bonfire' manifesto that draws from his experience in running the world's most complex city. People are going to read it. People are going to take notice."

"A blueprint for America?" one asks. Isn't that just the sort of thing to make ordinary readers blanch? And does it not carry an unfortunate echo of Newt Gingrich's *Contract with America*, an embarrassing flop? "Of course," the mole concedes, "Mr Giuliani would never actually call his book a 'blueprint'. That's not Giuliani-speak. His friends would just laugh at him."

"The man hasn't even thought of a title yet. But you can be sure he won't take a leaf out of Gingrich's book. Expect something homely, like *Our Great Nation*, or *Our Children's America*, or *Let's Fix America*," Mr Giuliani is unlike any other

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S
NEW YORK



Justice for captain all at sea on Sabbath

mayor in New York's history. Fiorello LaGuardia, John Lindsay, Vincent Impellitteri, Ed Koch, David Dinkins: they all faded out of sight once their stints in City Hall were over. But Mr Giuliani's quest for a "blueprint" is clear proof that he wants to run and run. What will the book be about?

The source says: "It won't be like Gingrich's contract in one important respect. It will not be an ideological manifesto. It will be more like a practical primer. He believes society must have certain basic foundations, like good policing, safe streets, clean streets, people working for a living. I suppose the underlying theme... is that he wants an 'all-inclusive' Republican party, a broad church. That's why he is a pro-choice Republican, supports homosexual rights, wants gun control."

Two main chapters in the

book, which Mr Giuliani is "most certainly not getting ghost-written", will be about drugs and the environment.

The first is a familiar Giuliani theme, and he has promised to "blitz" New York's drug barons. The second is a departure. The source says: "He doesn't see why the environment should not be a Republican rallying-cry."

"If litter on the streets is bad, so is litter in rivers and in the seas. Being pro-business doesn't mean being pro-pollution. Being an environmentalist need not mean living your life like the Amish."

Mr Giuliani has not approached publishers yet, but "once he does, we're talking a six-figure advance here". There will be speaking tours from Anchorage to Peoria, and "what better way is there to start a long-term presidential campaign?"

WATCHERS of the Louise Woodward case who saluted the verdict of Judge Hiller Zobel would do well to realise that Massachusetts justice has not always been so generous. Consider this story, from pre-Barry Scheck times.

A certain Captain Kemble, a Bostonian, set out to sea in 1670. When he returned three years later, after a ghastly voyage, he thanked his wife for remaining faithful and kissed her lovingly on their doorstep. Unfortunately, it was a Sunday, and for defiling the Sabbath with his lewd and unseemly conduct, the local magistrate made the poor seafarer stand for two hours in the stocks. A harsh verdict indeed.

It is a pity that there was no Judge Zobel then to whom Captain Kemble could turn for compassion.



WORLD SUMMARY

Poacher kills rare vulture

A female golden vulture has been shot by a Swiss poacher, seriously setting back attempts to return the birds to the Alps (Roger Boyes writes). The kill was also an embarrassment for the authorities who have made the bird the main logo for their bid to host the 2006 Winter Olympics.

The World Wide Fund for Nature, which has been breeding the vultures in captivity and then releasing them into the Alps where they used to nest until about 1980, said: "The killing represents a huge loss." The bird was a big hope for the WWF: only one vulture pair has produced offspring since the project began.

Iranian 'held on missile mission'

Moscow: The Federal Security Service, Russia's counter-espionage agency, said yesterday that it had detained an Iranian citizen who had tried to buy design documentation on missile technology. A spokesman said that the operation by the agency showed Russia's successes in preventing nuclear technologies leaving from the country, something which the West often has expressed concern about. (Reuters)

Son beheaded in Hindu ritual

Delhi: A man chopped off his son's head and offered it to the Hindu deity Kali in the belief that a human sacrifice would earn him divine favours, news agencies reported. Dharam Vir ordered his seven-year-old son to lie on the ground and beheaded him in Jind, in the northern state of Haryana. The father then offered the severed head to the goddess of destruction. (AFP)

Castro to attend Mass by Pope

Rome: The Pope will say Mass in Havana in front of President Castro at the climax of his historic five-day visit in January, the Vatican said. During his first trip to Cuba, the Pope, who first met Senior Castro at the World Food Summit in Rome last year, will have talks with the President. (Reuters)

Bad hair day

Washington: The US Food and Drug Administration has been told that a pill to help balding people to grow hair or stop losing it is effective. But 4 per cent of men in a study reported side-effects including decreased sex drive and problems with erections. (AFP)

David Tang, the Hong Kong businessman famous for his lime-green Mao jackets and sumptuous cars, brings a touch of Chinese precision to Madison Avenue next Friday, when he inaugurates Shanghai Tang, a 12,000 sq ft store. The time of the

opening? Precisely 6.18pm, as decreed by his feng shui consultant any other time would be calamitous. Feng shui is the art of ensuring good fortune by "reading the environment as a dynamic web of real but invisible connections between spaces, places and people".



Stirring words from Carla Fendi, designed to make self-styled animal rights activists reach for the nearest can of paint. Reading to reports in the press here that celebrate the "return" of fur, Fendi, left, head of the Italian fashion house, said: "At Fendi,

fur was never 'out'. We never stopped using it, and have always treated fur like the most luxurious fabric. "People now say that fur is 'back' because women want the freedom to wear whatever they want. Fur is part of their imagination. Fur makes women dream."

FOR the first time, *Playboy* magazine has put a brawler on its cover. Her name is Danielle House, pictured above.

Miss House, whose hair is the colour of a maple leaf in late autumn, leapt to fame last year when she was crowned Miss Canada. But her joy was short-lived. Within weeks of winning her little tiara, she was

Playboy hails beauty who was beastly

convicted of assault by a judge after breaking the nose, chipping the teeth and blackening the eyes of a rival for her boyfriend's affections. Wisely, her para-

mour left her. Perhaps more questionably, she was stripped of her title by the pageant's organisers. However, *Playboy* is more sympathetic. In a pictorial spread titled "Miss Canada scores a knockout", it portrays her as anything but a scrapper. "She lost her crown," the feature purrs, "but won control of her life."

Auction flop hits Sotheby's shares

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

The value of shares in Sotheby's fell by 6 per cent over two days after the auction of the collection of the hotelier Evelyn Sharp flopped badly on Wednesday night. Arnold Kaufman, editor of *The Outlook*, a New York-based investment advisory newsletter, said it was "a significant fall".

The day before the Sotheby's auction, Christie's, its arch-rival, had one of the "auctions of the century" when it sold the Ganz collection for a record \$206 million (£124 million). There was no evidence at Christie's that the general interest of buyers' in fine art was waning. Elizabeth Easton, curator for European Painting and Sculpture at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, said: "The difference between Christie's and Sotheby's has never been as apparent as it is now. Whereas the Ganz collection would have overshadowed anything, it's a shame that all Sotheby's had to offer



Baigneuse, by Renoir, sold for \$20.9 million

was the Sharp collection." However, there was some relief for Sotheby's.

The auction house said yesterday that a buyer came forward with \$9 million (£5.4 million) for a Modigliani that failed to sell at the Wednesday auction. It also sold a Renoir, *Baigneuse*, for \$20.9 million. Diana Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive, said they already had offers for two of the three other unsold guaranteed paintings from Wednesday.

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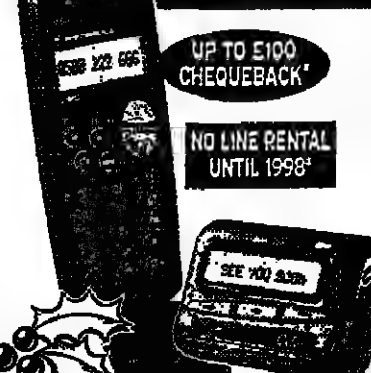


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WORLD SUMMARY
Poacher kills rare vulture

Iranian held in missile mission

Son beheaded in Hindu rite

Pop hits shares

Castro to attend Mass by Pope

Bad hair day

Pasternak's 'Lara' worked for KGB

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

ARCHIVE material has come to light suggesting that one of the most celebrated love affairs of this century was a sham: that the inspiration for the Lara character in Boris Pasternak's *Dr Zhivago* was a KGB informer who tried to thwart the novel's publication in the West.

Olga Ivinskaya, who died in September 1995 at the age of 83, had long epitomised the innocent victim of Communist oppression. A fervent admirer of Pasternak's poetry, she met her idol in 1946 when he was 56 and became his mistress and amanuensis at the time he was writing *Dr Zhivago*.

But Pasternak's poetry was attracting the ire of the authorities, who, while stopping short of taking direct action against such a respected literary figure, chose to hurt him through his mistress.

Ivinskaya was arrested in 1949 and sent to a labour camp for four years. During interrogation she miscarried, losing the child she had conceived with Pasternak. On her release in 1953, during the political thaw after Stalin's death, the couple were reunited. Ivinskaya moved into a dacha in the literary village of Peredelkino, just outside Moscow, where Pasternak lived with his second wife, Zinaida.

Their companionship lasted until his death in 1960, three years after *Dr Zhivago* was published in the West and the start of the official campaign of vilification against Pasternak that intensified after he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958. Within months of his death, Ivinskaya was arrested again, this time with her daughter, Irina. Both were sent to the camps, Irina serving two years and Olga a further four.

But letters recently released from



Pasternak "betrayed" to authorities by his lover

KGB archives show another side to the story. Extracts from the letters were published yesterday by the popular Moscow daily newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets*. They include a direct appeal written to Khrushchev, then Soviet leader, after her second arrest in 1960, saying she had tried to dissuade Pasternak from contacts with foreign publishers and laying the blame for the book's publication with the author and his family.

"Indeed, Pasternak received royalties from foreigners and lived off them with his family," Ivinskaya wrote. "Sometimes he would receive them through me and sometimes through members of his family. But he got them through me only because I was instructed by our highly placed organisations to prevent personal meetings between him and foreigners and to substitute for him at such meetings."

Other letters contained further "indications and hints" that Ivinskaya was working with the party central committee and other senior organs of power, *Moskovsky Komsomolets* said.

She was finally granted formal rehabilitation by the Soviet authorities in 1988, the year that *Dr Zhivago* was published in Russia.



Olga Ivinskaya, Pasternak's mistress and inspiration for the Lara figure in *Dr Zhivago*

Taleban lifts bar on women in hospital

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Taleban militia in Afghanistan is again allowing women in Kabul, the capital, to receive hospital treatment. Females had been ordered not to use medical establishments where men are treated, effectively denying them access to doctors and bringing the Islamic army into direct conflict with international aid organisations.

The change of heart came after two months of difficult negotiations with Western humanitarian groups in Kabul, which are helping 17,000 families with widows as head of household. The denial of medical treatment, coupled with the refusal to let women work, left women desperate. But for international intervention, the widows and their children would now be starving.

The International Committee of the Red Cross halted support to two medical facilities in Kabul in protest at the ban on women patients, denying them food, medical supplies and staff pay. The affair highlights the precarious position of foreign aid organisations in Afghanistan when their ethical standards come into conflict with Taleban's Islamic ideology.

ANC poised to seal fate of Cape Town

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

DUBBED the Cape of Last Hope by whites on a reverse trek from the rest of the continent, and as a racist enclave after Desmond Tutu, the Nobel peace laureate, was twice refused the freedom of the city, Cape Town's future as South Africa's joint capital will be decided by African National Congress leaders this weekend.

Under pressure to save on the high costs of having its administrative capital in Pretoria and Parliament in Cape Town, senior members of the ANC-led Government are backing the pro-move lobby inside the party's national executive committee, which meets today.

They have argued that the costs of maintaining a double capital — £15 million in air fares alone — dictate that Parliament should be moved to Pretoria, or to a purpose-built site between the administrative capital and Johannesburg.

Until last week, the debate over the future of Cape Town had been confined mainly to economic issues. But when the city council voted against a proposal to offer the freedom of the city to Archbishop Tutu, because he was chairman of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission, the city's future seemed in doubt.

Sources said that few members of the ANC executive, which largely dictates policy to the party, have any particular affection for Cape Town, which is also the seat of the Western Cape provincial assembly, controlled by the National Party.

"Ironically, the only thing likely to preserve Cape Town's future as joint capital and home for Parliament is that the ANC may shy away from creating the Western Cape as a sort of breakaway republic for Afrikaans speakers," an ANC source said.

Lobbyists for keeping Parliament in Cape Town say that the city stands to lose at least 10,000 jobs. After an outcry against their snubbing of Archbishop Tutu, Cape Town's council members this week voted to offer him the freedom of the city. He had reacted with characteristic good humour to the earlier votes against him and said that as he was in danger of becoming too much of an establishment figure, he had enjoyed being rejected by the councillors. ANC sources said other members may be unwilling to forgive so easily.

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Britain and US bolster jet force for Gulf

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WEAPONS

THE crews of six RAF Harrier GR7 ground attack aircraft have been put on 48 hours' notice to leave for possible deployment to the Gulf, John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday.

The change begins from Monday and they could be in Gibraltar on Wednesday to join the Royal Navy aircraft carrier, HMS *Invincible*, now on her way from Barbados.

The Harriers from No 1 Squadron, based at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire, will be lined up alongside the Navy's Sea Harrier FA2s to provide a new-style "expeditionary air group".

Dr Reid told the Commons that the six RAF Harrier GR7s were having their state of alert changed from five days to 48 hours as a "sensible precautionary measure". The inten-

tion is for the naval and RAF Harriers to complement each other in any joint action against Iraq.

The plan is to keep eight Sea Harriers on HMS *Invincible* and to make room for the six RAF Harrier GR7s by removing some of the anti-submarine warfare helicopters from the deck.

Although RAF Harrier GR7s used carrier platforms during the Falklands conflict in 1982 before they were able to create a landing area on the islands, this will be the first occasion when the Royal Navy and the RAF will be able to put into practice for an operational mission the newly formed concept of "jointness" favoured by George Robertson, the

Defence Secretary. In this case, it will be the RAF and the Navy sharing a single platform for a joint mission.

The Harrier GR7, which came into service in September 1992, is slightly larger than the other Harriers and can carry a maximum weapons load of 9,200lb, including laser-guided bombs. It has a normal combat range of more than 500 miles, but since it is equipped with an air refuelling capability, the only range-limiting factor is the availability of tankers.

There are two squadrons, each with 16 Harrier GR7s, based at Laarbruch in Germany and one squadron

at RAF Wittering, also with 16 aircraft. The Sea Harrier FA2 has a ground attack capability and can be equipped with laser-guided bombs, although its primary role is to protect the carrier. It is equipped with a sophisticated Blue Vixen radar and the advanced medium-range air-to-air missile (Amraam) system.

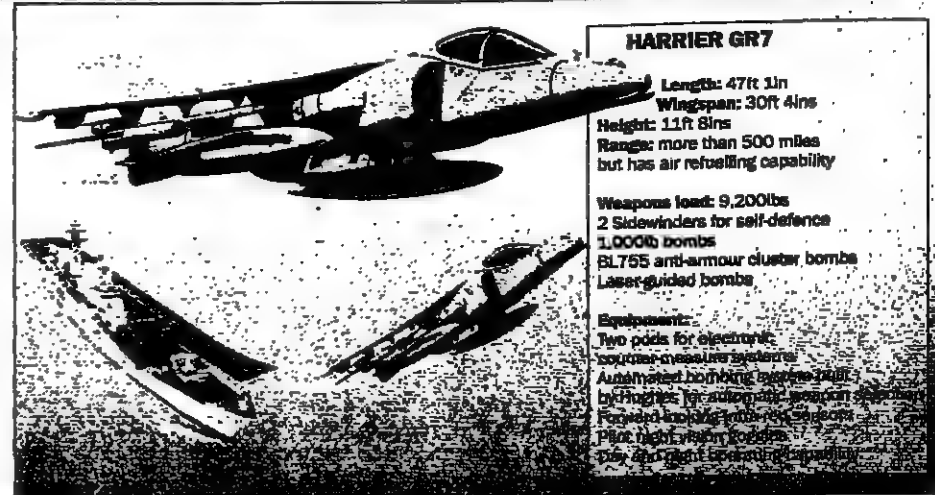
There are plans for the Royal Navy carriers to be refitted to put on a permanent basis the operational capability for a mixture of Sea Harriers and Harrier GR7s. The ageing Sea Dart missile system will be removed and a new area created for stocking GR7 ordnance. When the

Navy's nuclear-powered submarines are fitted with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the combination will provide a potent expeditionary force.

The US Navy in the Gulf also has a greater potential for strikes against Iraq than ever before. In the past, US aircraft carriers have been able to support 100 sorties every 24 hours. However, after an exercise called *Surge* in the Gulf, involving USS *Nimitz*, the nuclear-powered carrier now in the Gulf, the Americans increased the sortie level to 225 in 24 hours by adding 24 more pilots.



A flight deck crew member races to attend an American warplane as it lands on the USS *Nimitz* after a sortie over Iraq to enforce United Nations resolutions.



HARRIER GR7

Length: 47ft 1in
Wingspan: 30ft 6ins
Height: 11ft 6ins
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Laser-guided bombs
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Leading article, page 23

UN chief shocked by 'human shields'

FROM JAMES BOWEN IN NEW YORK

KOFI ANNAN, the UN Secretary-General, said last night he was shocked by Iraq's use of civilians as "human shields" against a possible military attack.

"I do not think women and children should be used in that situation," he said. "Even if they volunteered, if the Government thought there was going to be an attack, you do not put women and children in harm's way." He was commenting on civilian volunteers who have gone to some government buildings to defy any American attacks.

The UN chief said he had "no indications" from any source that Iraq was ready to reverse its decision to bar Americans from working as United Nations inspectors.

Benon Sevan, the UN's top security co-ordinator, arrived in Baghdad yesterday to review the safety of the 200 UN staff working in the country as part of the UN-approved "oil-for-food" deal that allows Iraq to sell a limited quantity of crude oil to buy humanitarian supplies.



Mr Annan said the UN would withdraw its staff if it believed their lives were in danger.

The 15-nation Security Council haggled for eight hours before condemning Baghdad's expulsion of American weapons inspectors "in the strongest possible terms". It recalled a two-week-old statement threatening "serious consequences" after Russia and France objected to language suggesting the use of force.

Bulgaria in Crisis

Appeal to Times Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 14, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him soon. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.



No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

£25 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £_____ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card

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Room 40, Tanya Barova, (T3), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8399, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4R 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW Registered Charity No 1048757

Please act NOW - winter is coming

Saddam prepares weary nation for renewed conflict

By James Bowen in Baghdad

Saddam Hussein has prepared his people for a renewed conflict with the West, according to a senior Iraqi official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Saddam had been telling his people for some time that they should be prepared for a renewed conflict with the West.

He said that Saddam had been telling his people that they should be prepared for a renewed conflict with the West, and that they should be prepared to sacrifice for their country.

He said that Saddam had been telling his people that they should be prepared for a renewed conflict with the West, and that they should be prepared to sacrifice for their country.

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BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

Madeleine Albright with Benjamin Netanyahu at yesterday's frosty press conference

She said she was going because America keeps its word and because the conference was an important part of the attempts to integrate the Arab and Israeli economies.

A Federal indictment accuses him of teaching Mohammed Salameh, one of the convicted conspirators, how to drive the rental van that carried the bomb to the underground garage at the World Trade Centre.

BAGHDAD

There were continuing clashes between the regime's forces and Shia rebels in several southern cities, including Basra, Nasiriyah and Amara, according to unconfirmed reports by the opposition Iraqi National Congress.

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Legal loophole lets baby killer escape justice

A LOOPHOLE in the law allowed the killer of an 18-month-old baby girl to escape justice yesterday when the couple who had been accused of the child's murder admitted lesser charges.

Murder charges against Lavinia Adams, the baby's mother, and her boyfriend, John Sherrington, had to be dropped because police could not establish who had struck the fatal blow.

Child welfare experts believe that every week at least two children are killed by a parent or partner who is protected by the couple's refusal to say what happened. The NSPCC, parents and MPs have long campaigned for a change in the law but despite an investigation by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, no action has been taken.

Yesterday Sherrington, who taped the screams of Sarah Adams as he abused her, abandoned his not guilty plea to cruelty and apologised to the Old Bailey jurors who had been obliged to listen to the recording. "I'm sorry you had to listen to that tape," he said.

The baby was admitted to hospital last November with skull fractures and brain damage. She had bruises all over her head and body and bite marks on her shoulder and feet, and died two days later.

Police later discovered Sherrington's tape-recording.

Child welfare experts alarmed as accused admit only cruelty and neglect, reports Kathryn Knight

on which he could be heard telling Sarah: "I've got a mixture for you. You can have some car wash mixed with bleach, mixed with paint. A really nice drink for you." Another tape was of the baby's screams as he held her in a judo lock.

Last week Sherrington punched the air in triumph when the murder charge against him was dropped at the Old Bailey. Prosecutors in such "joint enterprise" cases have to prove who struck the fatal blow. Magistrates in Sutton, Surrey, had dropped the murder charge against Adams, 31, because of insufficient evidence. Yesterday the pair admitted cruelty and neglect and can be sentenced only to a maximum ten years.

Sherrington, in custody, and Adams, who is on bail, now await sentencing on December 15. But police feel that justice has not been done. One

officer said: "When you know the sort of things they did to her, then this is a travesty."

The problem surfaced in 1988, when Christine Mason and her boyfriend, Roy Aston, were tried for the manslaughter of Doreen Mason, aged 18 months. Doreen died of multiple injuries, many of which suggested she had been swung by the ankles and smashed against the wall of her home in Walworth, South London. The two defendants were jailed for 12 years but three years later the Appeal Court overturned their sentence on the basis that it was impossible to tell who had inflicted the fatal injuries.

Since then, several cases have highlighted this loophole, such as that of Chanel Hedman, who died in 1990 after suffering 15 rib fractures. Her parents, Sally Emery and Brian Hedman, were jailed for cruelty because the police could not prove who had inflicted the fatal injury.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "We feel outrage that children are dying violent deaths in their own homes, without any suggestion of involvement of an external third party, and yet parents or carers are apparently escaping full responsibility. It's too late to protect these children but there must be a deterrent to stop others being killed in this way."



John Sherrington and Lavinia Adams: neither would admit to having killed Adams's baby daughter



Obsession blinded mother to abuse

THERE was no evidence of abuse against Sarah Adams until her mother began a disastrous four-month relationship with Sherrington (Kathryn Knight writes). Within two months the child was showing signs of being beaten but nobody intervened to save her.

Adams and Sherrington lived only doors away on the same run-down estate in Sutton, Surrey. She lived with her parents after splitting up with her alcoholic partner. He lived on his own after his wife left home with their children.

Sherrington has three other children under 10, who live with his estranged

wife. Adams has a 14-month-old son, who has been adopted.

The two met only a couple of weeks after the birth of Adams's second child, and within days Adams had moved in with her two young children. Soon, neighbours noticed bruising on Sarah's face and heard repeated yelling, slapping noises and shouting from the three-bedroom flat.

A senior police officer investigating Sarah's death said Sherrington had a power complex and enjoyed wielding influence over Adams, testing her to see how much he could hurt Sarah. "It seems they had a weird sexual relationship. But

it seems that her obsession with him made her immune to what he was doing. Her relationship with him was more important than the safety of her child," the officer said.

Over the next two months, despite frequent sightings by neighbours, visits to the GP and and home visits by a local NHS trust health worker, Sarah's plight remained undetected.

Four days before Sarah died, a neighbour, Deborah Knowles, called at the couple's flat and saw Sarah "like a rag doll, limp, glassy-eyed, staring vacantly and with purple bruises all over her face".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Paedophile sentenced to 7 years for assault

A paedophile with a history of molesting young boys dating from 1981 was starting a seven-year jail sentence yesterday. Stephen Carruthers, 39, a married father of two children, of Moston, Greater Manchester, would befriend boys and gain their parents' confidence before his attacks.

The indecent assault occurred a year ago when the 11-year-old victim and two friends visited Carruthers's former home in Salford to watch television. Judge Stuart Fish said at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, that he was passing a longer sentence than normal to protect other children. He ordered that Carruthers be placed on the sex offenders' register.

Shot WPC dies

A former policewoman whose career ended when she was shot in the back and paralysed 15 years ago dealing with a domestic row has been found dead. Maureen Martin, 41, was found at her home near Maffin, Northumberland, early on Friday. The cause of death is not known.

Salvage delay

Bad weather has again delayed the operation to recover a fishing boat, with the bodies of four men on board, from the sea bed. The trawler *Sapphire* sank six weeks ago, 12 miles off Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. The families of the men chartered a crane to ensure they could be given a proper burial.

Bullion for him

Michael McAvoy, serving 25 years for the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery, failed in an attempt to have his high-security status reduced. Mr Justice Harrison refused in the High Court to allow McAvoy to seek judicial review of the Prison Service decision not to downgrade him.

Beach polluted

Lumps of solidified coconut oil have covered a one-mile stretch of Chesil Beach at Portland, Dorset. The oil escaped after a collision between two tankers nearly two months ago. Slicks have also been reported in parts of the Channel Islands and Plymouth.

Goal in one

Simon Dawson, 6ft 4in centre half for the Farnborough Flyers, is claiming a place in football history after scoring a goal directly from the kick-off during a second division match of the Stockport and Cheadle Sunday league. Before a recent Fifa rule change such a shot would have been illegal.

Parish refuses to pay auditor's fee

BY SIMON DE BRUKELLES

A PARISH council is defying the Audit Commission and refusing to pay its fee for checking its books.

The £65.80 bill for going through the 16 entries in the accounts ledger is a significant proportion of the council's £420 annual budget. The money raised from the residents of Mappowder in Dorset pays for annual repairs to the bus shelter and subsidises the cost of running the village hall. The population is so small — 170 — that the council is officially called the Village Meeting.

Its chairman, Bill Woodhouse, a company director, has been refusing to pay the accountancy fees since April. He said: "If ever a bureaucracy invented a huge hammer to crack a non-existent nut, then this is it."

Mr Woodhouse argues that, in common with other small rural organisations, it would

be easy to find an accountant to check the books for free, especially as he estimates that there is no more than 15 minutes' work involved.

The Meeting's treasurer, Alan Trevellick, a retired bank administrator, said: "They called for the book to audit the 1995-96 accounts 'in about April last year. We had to take the book ten miles over to Blandford Forum, the nearest town, and they kept it for more than a month before telling us we could have it back. They didn't send a bill for ages and it finally arrived this year, and we don't have the money to pay it."

A spokeswoman for the Audit Commission said: "We were set up by the Conservatives during the 1980s to look at how all monies are spent by local authorities. There are costs incurred in this, and there is a minimum fee to be paid."

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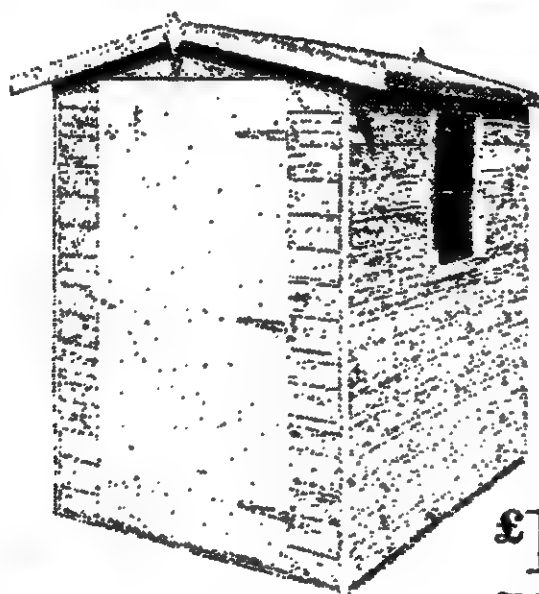
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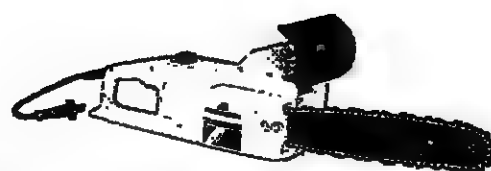
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Schools learn how to boost league position

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GROWING numbers of state and independent schools are being accused of adopting several ploys to improve their standing in government league tables to be published next week.

Rising pass rates at GCSE and A level will be reflected in the majority of schools' results, but some institutions have stolen a march on their rivals. Among the ploys they have used are the addition of general studies to the A-level menu, targeted teaching for pupils just below the threshold for inclusion in the main GCSE rankings, and the expulsion of disruptive low achievers.

The tables to be published on Tuesday will register a sharp increase in the number taking A level

in general studies, boosting the standing of scores of schools. Although most top universities say that they do not recognise the subject as a full A level, the number of entrants for the subject rose this summer from 63,000 to 73,000. The subject has now overtaken mathematics in popularity, leaving it second to English in the number of entries.

Summer league tables produced by *The Times* and other newspapers exclude general studies, but government statistics do not. Schools that take the subject can boost the average score of each pupil sufficiently to leap 100 places or more up the national ranking for A level.

Last year, for example, Austin Friars School in Carlisle was among the top 60 independent schools in the Government's tables, but out-

side the top 200 in *The Times* summer ranking.

David Roberts, the subject officer for general studies at the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board, acknowledged that schools were influenced in adopting the subject by its effect on league tables.

But he added: "Schools also know that a lot of universities accept general studies in August and September, whatever they may say officially."

However, Alan Smithers, head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research

and the author of a report on the subject, said that the acceptance of general studies for a minority of degree courses could not explain the increase in examination entries.

"The league tables give schools a clear incentive to add a subject that often involves very little teaching," he said.

Following a review of league tables shortly after the Government took office, ministers were urged to alter the GCSE score on which schools are ranked because of possible distortion, but they chose to retain the existing measures so that

parents would have a consistent benchmark against which to judge improvement.

With schools rated on the proportion of pupils achieving five high-grade passes, many have been accused of giving extra attention to pupils at the margins of this mark, to the exclusion of others. Research by the pressure group Article 26 has shown that recent increases in performance at GCSE have been much higher among such pupils than other groups.

Pass rates among the poorest quarter of GCSE candidates have declined since 1992, while the next quarter have made more progress than those with the highest grades. Charles Bell, who produced the analysis for Article 26, said that only a points system similar to the one used at A level would ensure that all

pupils' results affected a school's ranking. Carol Taylor Fitz-Gibbon, professor of education at Durham University, said: "It is widely accepted that schools concentrate on students on the borderline between C and D grades. It is understandable that the Government wants consistency, but that is not reason enough to persevere with an indicator that distorts behaviour so badly."

Schools have also been accused of carrying out an annual "cull" of persistent truants and disruptive pupils who have little prospect of achieving five GCSE passes. Only by expelling them before the Department for Education and Employment carries out its census of pupils can a school ensure that such low achievers do not depress its league table score.



Blakeley: was confident that right would prevail

Teacher is cleared of hitting disruptive schoolboy

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JUNIOR school head teacher accused of slapping an unruly pupil was yesterday cleared of assaulting the 10-year-old boy.

The jury at Bradford Crown Court took less than 30 minutes to find Jan Blakeley, a teacher with 26 years' experience, not guilty of causing actual bodily harm to the child during an art lesson in December. Judge Ian Dobbin ordered that the costs of the three-day trial, estimated to run into five figures, should be paid from central funds.

Outside court, Mr Blakeley, 47, said he felt no bitterness that the charge had been brought. He has been on sick leave since the incident and resigned in June to take an administrative post with his education authority. He said: "I don't know whether I will want to return to teaching after this. I have been told there is no bar on my returning: it is a decision I will have to make in the coming weeks."

The incident at Crosland Moor Junior School in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, happened when Mr Blakeley was standing in for a colleague. He had already told the boy, who had a reputation for disruption, to stop causing trouble on several occasions. The child was pulling his sweater over his head, singing and calling out.

Mr Blakeley went over to him and took hold of him with one hand. The child claimed he had seized him by the throat and slapped him with his other hand, but Mr Blakeley maintained that he had merely cupped the boy's chin and then pushed his head towards his work. A doctor later found the boy's cheek to be reddened and swollen.

Outside court Mr Blakeley said: "Perhaps with hindsight I should have taken the work to the child rather than trying to turn his head to the work. I was confident of the outcome. I had faith that right would prevail."



The schoolboy William Hague at 15, when he joined the Conservative Party

How a Yorkshire boyhood made me what I am today

William Hague recalls his Seventies schooldays as one of 1,800 pupils at a coalfield comprehensive

I KNOW how important it is to get a good start in life. I was lucky enough to go to one of the best schools in South Yorkshire, Wath-upon-Dearne Comprehensive.

In those days you could not choose which school you sent your children to: the local authority did. My parents just happened to live within Wath-upon-Dearne's catchment area. Parents of friends of mine did not, and their children went to far worse schools. The Conservatives gave parents greater freedom of choice in education, and the league tables — an innovation which was met with opposition from many quarters when they launched five years ago — have given parents the information with which to make that choice.

When I arrived in 1972, Wath-upon-Dearne was still adjusting to its new status as a comprehensive. The school was located deep in the heart of the South Yorkshire coalfields. There were 1,800 pupils, many of whom came from coalmining and steel-making families.

I had four close friends and we spent a great deal of time together. They came from very different social backgrounds. One was a farmer's son, another was a small shopkeeper's son and the other two were miners' sons. I still keep in touch with all four to this day.

My family had a small soft drinks business. We produced such well-known brands as Hague Cola and Hague Dandelion and Bur-

dock. We lived four and a half miles away from my school, but because the school bus took a round-about route, it used to take me at least 40 minutes every morning to get there.

I liked most subjects. My favourite subjects — no surprises here — were history and politics. I focused on 19th-century British history, and devoured books on Disraeli and Gladstone. I also learnt about European history in the 17th and 18th century, and

“If one day I send children of my own to a similar school, I will have no complaint”

age of court factions and almost constant warfare. It is amazing how little changes!

I wasn't a great sportsman, although I was a respectable cross-country runner. I wasn't terribly good at art or music either. I was in the school choir, not because I could sing but because I regarded it as a social club. The choir used to travel all over the place, and I wanted to go with them. I also used to go on a huge number of school trips. But Germany and Ulswater, in the Lake District, seemed to be the only two destina-

tions. Holidays weren't all fun. From the age of 15 onwards I worked for my father's business. My job was to help deliver beer to all the pubs and working men's clubs in the Rotherham district.

It was thirsty work. The beer had to be delivered in 22-gallon barrels which weighed a ton — or so it seemed to me at the time. The worst part was we had to get them down steep steps into the cellars of each club.

The best part was that when I'd finished each delivery I'd always be given a pint of John Smith's as a reward. The first pint came at nine o'clock in the morning, when I started my deliveries. By the time the last pint was pulled for me at five in the evening, I'd be feeling pretty light-headed.

They all knew me at the working men's clubs, and they all knew I was a paid-up Conservative. So we had a few friendly arguments along the way. I probably had better political debates with the working men of Rotherham than I did at the Oxford Union or, for that matter, in the House of Commons.

Like everyone, my background and my education have made me what I am today. I believe the importance of a good education cannot be overstated. It is the birthright of everyone in a civilised society.

That is why I have no time for those who make excuses for failing schools. There is no excuse for poor schools

and bad teaching. Wath-upon-Dearne Comprehensive was not in a well-to-do area and many of the parents who sent their children there came from working-class backgrounds. But it was well run, had good teachers and fostered eager students. Its broad social mix was an

advantage too. I still keep in close touch with my school. This January I went back to present the prizes at the school speech day. I was more apprehensive about making a speech there, in front of all the pupils and teachers, than I ever am in front of my fellow MPs — not least because my

old politics master, Mr Godber, is now headteacher.

My days at Wath-upon-Dearne Comprehensive were happy ones. I studied quite hard, but I also made good friends. If I can one day send children of my own to a similar school, I will have no cause for complaint.

Boy sent to Ghana for better education

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A BOY of 13 has been sent to study in Africa because his parents say the British education system has failed him.

Charlotte and Albert Nightingale, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, said yesterday that they resorted to sending their son Deryl to school in the former British colony of Ghana because of the lack of discipline and poor standard of teaching at home.

Mrs Nightingale, who arranged for her son to live with his aunt in the capital Accra, described the Ghanaian education policy as "a legacy of the British colonial system that has been kept and improved on".

"They concentrate on the three Rs, making sure that grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct. In Ghana mistakes are unacceptable. If a child doesn't achieve, he isn't allowed to move on to the next level. Schools here seem to let children just go on up through the years and classes whether they have reached the required grade or not."

Mrs Nightingale, who was born and educated in Ghana before coming to England 24 years ago, said her homeland had a strict authoritarian education system no longer exercised in British schools.

"Deryl was very wayward and his discipline was just crazy. He wasn't achieving or progressing, so something had to be done," said Mrs Nightingale, whose husband is a white and works as a sales engineer.

"Before he left, Deryl hadn't even learned the basics," she said. "He struggled to write a one-page letter that wasn't full of mistakes. Now he is writing well-written six-page letters. His behaviour has also improved dramatically."

Strict teacher inquiry

A COUNCIL started an inquiry after primary school children raised a petition against their teacher because she was "too strict" (writes Shirley English).

About half the class of primary seven children at Bredland Primary in Paisley, near Glasgow, signed the petition, saying they were fed up with being punished for "silly things" such as chatting in class.

They sent it to their

headteacher, Compton MacLeod, and the complaint resulted in an investigation by Renfrewshire Council, who met parents yesterday.

Council officials said, however, they were satisfied with the unnamed teacher's performance and claimed peer pressure was responsible for so many children signing. A spokesman said a recent survey of the class had revealed that 23 out of the 27 pupils were "very happy" in school.

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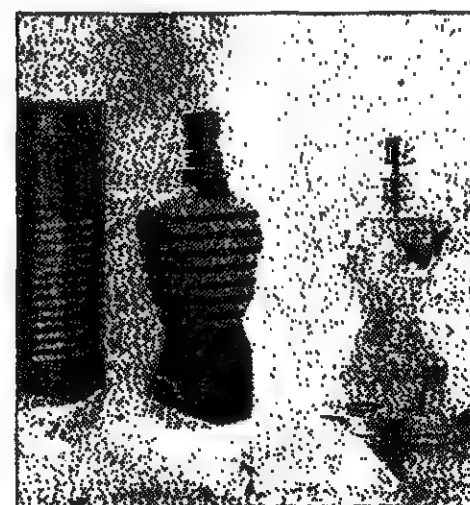
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The arms chief who put a bomb under the IRA

He features in none of the standard books on the IRA. He has seldom, if ever, been named in the media. Yet he was — until last month — one of the IRA's most powerful men, the quartermaster-general who controlled its leonine arsenal of Semtex and Kalashnikovs.

He has a new role now. Having launched an unsuccessful coup last month, he is seeking to sabotage Gerry Adams's so-called "peace strategy" by other means.

Republican and security sources agree that this man inspired the past fortnight's astonishing stories of dissension within the world's most secretive and disciplined terrorist organisation. They believe those stories are exaggerated, but also fear they could prove self-fulfilling.

By going public the former quartermaster is offering an alternative for hardliners opposed to the peace process. If the Stormont talks remain deadlocked, and the ceasefire yields few benefits, those hardliners could yet rally to his banner. One security official said it was unclear whether the man would attempt to set up a rival organisation, or carp from the sidelines, but added: "This could be the beginning of a major split. If so, we have big problems."

Conscious of the dangers, London and Dublin will attempt to inject some urgency into the talks next week. Tony Blair is to meet Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, and the talks chairman will discuss with the eight participating parties ways of moving from the present "grandstanding" into more private, detailed negotiations.

The former quartermaster lives with his girlfriend near Dundalk, a harbour town just south of the border in Co Louth that is where IRA activists traditionally go to ground. It has been dubbed Ireland's El Paso.

He dislikes Mr Adams. He led opposition to the last IRA ceasefire, and allegedly made the telephone call claiming responsibility for the London Docklands bomb of February 1996 that ended it. He opposes this one with equal vehemence, believing it stands no

The terrorists' former quartermaster has set out to wreck

Gerry Adams's peace strategy in a bitter split which threatens the Stormont talks, reports Martin Fletcher

chance of producing the united Ireland for which he and his colleagues have spent the past quarter century fighting.

In September Mr Adams committed Sinn Féin to the Mitchell principles, which explicitly renounce the use of force, in order to join the talks. Three days later the IRA disavowed those principles in a highly provocative statement to *An Phoblacht*, the republican movement's newspaper.

Seeing his chance, the quartermaster proceeded to use his influence and place on the 12-member army executive — the body of "elder statesmen" that oversees the seven-man army council that runs the IRA — to secure a highly-unusual IRA summit last month.

It was held in Gweedore, an attractive Irish-speaking village on the coast of northwest Donegal. About 50 top IRA personnel attended. The quartermaster and his predominantly southern supporters were confident they could "wrench the wheel away from the leadership", according to one source.

The leadership was certainly alarmed. It was a bitter, rancorous meeting and Sinn

Fein officials acknowledge that Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness could not have survived as leaders had the quartermaster and his backers prevailed.

In the event, by dint of intense lobbying, the leadership carried the day. The meeting split roughly 70-30 in favour of the present strategy, and the quartermaster was forced to resign.

He took with him half a dozen supporters including his girlfriend, who was the sister of one of the 1981 hunger strikers and a fellow member of the army executive, and a top member of the IRA's engineering department which makes everything from mortars to detonators.

The resignation from the army council of a former IRA Chief of Staff, a hawk called Kevin McKenna, owed more to ill-health than dissent, but this was nonetheless the IRA's most serious internal rift since 1986. The quartermaster promised to leave the IRA's arms dumps alone. Under the IRA's General Orders taking IRA weapons or explosives is punishable by death.

Brian Gillen, a Belfast com-

mander and convicted terrorist loyal to the leadership, replaced Mr McKenna on the army council. On the face of it Mr Adams emerged with his position strengthened, except that the quartermaster refused to follow the standard practice of those who leave the IRA by going quietly.

He is believed to have encouraged the very public resignations of a dozen long-serving Sinn Féin activists in Dundalk ten days ago, and to have inspired a sensational story in *The Irish Times* on Wednesday. In it a "spokesman for IRA dissidents" claimed that almost an entire battalion from South Armagh, the IRA's engine room, had resigned in support of the quartermaster and his fellow rebels.

On Thursday the IRA was compelled to issue another statement through *An Phoblacht*, this one admitting that a "very small number of people" had left but labelling reports of a major split as "fanciful" and "greatly exaggerated".

Security officials are uncertain exactly what is happening within the IRA, but are in-

clined to accept that *An Phoblacht* statement. What surprises them is not the internal opposition to the peace process, but that it has become public.

They believe the quartermaster is trying to "get a bandwagon rolling", and while there is little evidence of that yet happening they are hardly sanguine. "At a time when there is wide unhappiness he is in the process of creating a clear alternative," one said. For tactical reasons Mr Adams called the ceasefire in July, before he had time to consult and prepare the republican grassroots.

There is considerable grumbling, particularly in hardline areas. Belfast is apparently solid, but there is concern about areas such as Derry and East Tyrone while the "bandit country" of South Armagh, where many of the IRA's British bombs originated, is said to be "very keen" to return to war.

The activities of the Continuity IRA, a republican splinter group opposed to the ceasefire, are compounding that unrest. It scored a major propaganda coup with the Markethill bomb in Co Armagh in September, and two weeks ago "flicked two fingers" at Mr McGuinness and Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Féin's chairman, by planting a bomb in their native Londonderry.

From some disgruntled IRA sources, Continuity IRA recently obtained Semtex.

The leadership's other big problem is that the peace strategy has yet to yield obvious benefits. There has been no discernible progress at the Stormont talks, where Unionists refuse to have anything to do with Sinn Féin, and senior republicans complain bitterly about the Government's lack of movement on prisoners and demilitarisation.

Security officials sketch out two possible scenarios. The first envisages the "critical mass" of the republican movement swinging towards the quartermaster and a resumption of the armed struggle.

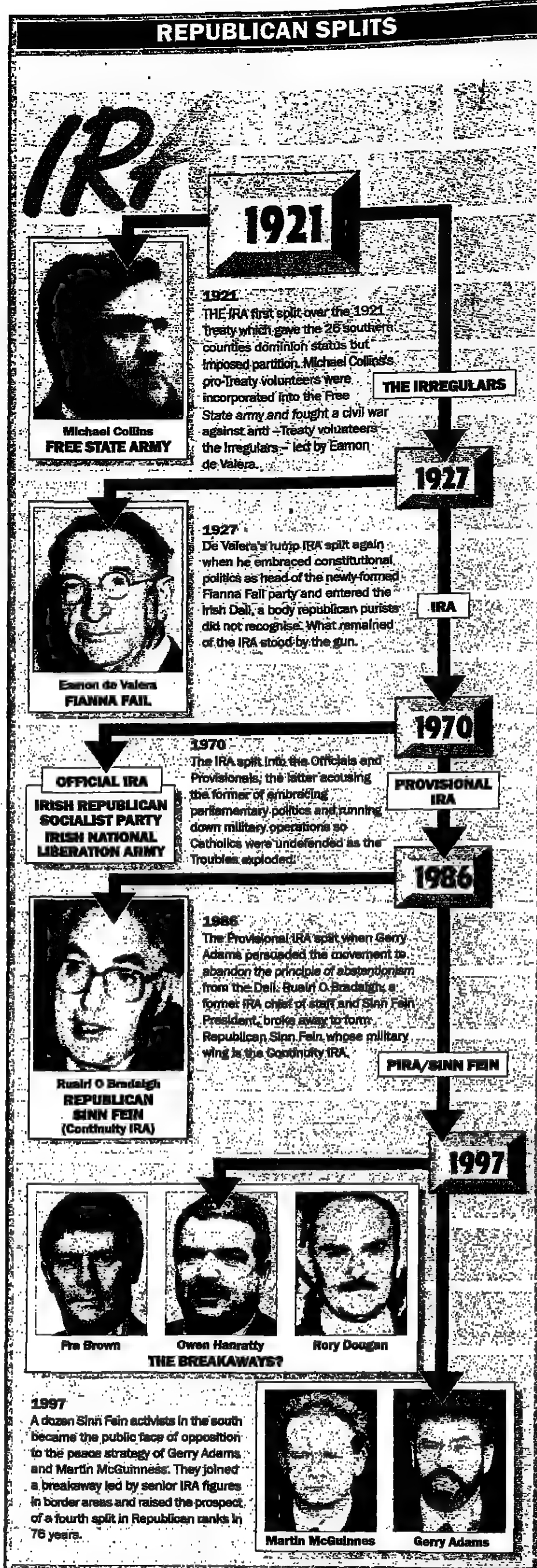
If that happened, they believe the leadership would abandon the peace process to avoid an irrevocable split. Four of the army council's seven members are considered hawks who might have reservations about the ceasefire.

The second, more likely, has Mr Adams settling next year for something far short of a united Ireland but hoping he can carry the bulk of the movement with him.

That would necessarily involve the fourth major split between pragmatists and purists in the IRA's 80-year history. The quartermaster has shown that there is a hardline rump that would never accept such a deal, whatever the immediate benefits.

Moreover, his rebellion is making it still harder for Mr Adams to prepare the movement for such an historic compromise. Under this scenario, "there is no doubt there will be a split," said one security source.

"The question is where the split comes and how we deal with the aftermath."



Happier times: Gerry Adams with, from left, Owen Hanratty and his wife Marie, Fra Brown and Mr Adams's brother Liam. Mr Brown and Mr Hanratty broke away from Sinn Féin in protest at Mr Adams's style of leadership

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£7m lottery jackpots are still unclaimed

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

TWO £7 million winners had still not claimed their mid-week jackpots last night as operators Camelot cleared the decks in preparation for the National Lottery's third anniversary.

Three so-called superdraws, starting today and ending next Saturday, will be worth a guaranteed total of £50 million. Today's will be worth £10 million, next Wednesday's £15 million, and next weekend's £25 million — the largest ever guaranteed jackpot that has not been a rollover. Cash reserves will be used to boost the prize fund.

If the huge jackpots are not won outright, they will not be added together to make rollovers. Instead the money will be given to good causes.

Meanwhile, lottery officials were puzzled that neither winner of the midweek draw — featuring the numbers 3, 6, 8, 27, 36 and 45 — had come forward.

A spokeswoman said: "It's bizarre. Two people are walking around without realising what they are sitting on."

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A dogfight between two puppies

Differences over Europe were not enough to arouse aggression when two old friends met on familiar turf

It was the Tory party split personified: two of the original Cambridge mafiiosi, Ken Clarke and Norman Lamont, on opposite sides of the debating chamber at the Cambridge Union, exactly where they had first met 35 years ago as fresh-faced, ambitious young men — on the same side.

Most of the audience at Thursday's debate "This House is afraid of EMU" were not born when Britain voted by referendum to go into Europe in May 1975. Lamont told them he had objected to the wording of the motion. "I'm not afraid of EMU at all. Let me let you into a secret. I will be terribly disappointed if it doesn't happen." (He wants to say: "I told you so.")

In this Victorian chamber designed on House of Commons lines, but warmer and more intimate (like a cabaret, said Lamont), they spent their happy salad days. Clarke occupied the presidential throne in 1963; Lamont in 1964.

The president now is Gareth Weetman, known as "Gaz", who announced that tonight the chamber could boast "more former Tory MPs than most boards of merchant banks". (Sir Teddy Taylor and Sir Nicholas Scott were there.)

But there was to be no dogfight. Cambridge blood is thicker than political differences over Europe. "The most precious thing this chamber gave me was friendship," said Lamont, "and one of those friends was Kenneth Clarke. Don't believe everything you read. Ken and I are firm friends, and my admiration for him remains strong, even though we disagree on this fundamental issue."

It turned out that both men had joined all the political parties when they arrived. "I joined Conservative, Liberal, Labour and Communist clubs and the UIN Association and the European Society," said Lamont, "just to be able to attend all their meetings, but I was active only as a Conservative." Clarke did the same but after one year stood for office in the Conservative Association and left a fully fledged Tory.

What impressed Clarke, on Thursday night was that the undergraduates concentrated so intently on the speeches for three hours. There was no heckling. "I find it reminiscent of an 18th century political debate," he said. That morning, with Tony Benn, he had addressed 1,500 similarly attentive sixth-formers at Central Hall, Westminster. Lamont spends a day a week addressing meetings on Euro-sceptic matters, a one-issue person now "but it's what interests me, and as Enoch [his hero] once put it, 'I can pipe no other tune'."

The undergraduates of today seem to be a sticky lot. Visceral, hacking, conspurative, sounds punctuated every speech. As Harold Pinter remarked of British theatre audiences, they seemed to have come for the express purpose of having a good cough. If Madame



The Ken and Norman show: "Don't believe everything you read. Ken and I are firm friends, and my admiration for him remains strong," said Lamont

Speaker had been present she would have ordered Zubes all round. Playing back my tape, every other phrase drowned by coughing, it sounded like a tuberculosis ward. "What will member nations do if unemployment rises? (Belows and wheezes) ... can't adjust their interest rates, their exchange rates, what is left? Nothing except mass migration ... (Explosive coughs) ... How are firms to overcome ... (Desfering splutters) ... Real wage cuts, of the kind that have not happened in any country since" (paroxysms of sneezes).

Before the Clarke and Lamont show, there was an opportunity to spot future mafiiosi in a mini-debate on a motion banning all tobacco advertising. It was carried, despite a virtuoso performance by an 18-year-old from a Bury St Edmunds comprehensive named Alex Deane, whose chirpy libertarian views contrasted with a general piousness.

The most striking participant in the main debate was a girl known as Fred — Froydis Cameron, shapely and glamorous in a short black dress with bootlace straps and a glittering necklace. The daughter of a diplomat, brought up in Germany and Brussels, she leant on the dispatch box displaying her *Europhile* views with a practised ease and flourish style — "Sovereignty is not the same as virginity. It's not a case of you have it or you

don't" — which will one day go down well in the Commons. Clarke looked like the favourite all along: "One of the finest politicians of his generation" declared one speaker, whereupon Gaz rose to say: "We must remember that we have two former Chancellors here tonight. It was Norman Lamont who sowed the very seeds of recovery," Clarke murmured: "Quite right."

Having waited to speak until after 10pm after a long day — Lamont had spent his morning at Jimmy Goldsmith's memorial service, Clarke had been at Lord Tony's party — the two war-horses rose to the occasion, considering how many times each has rehearsed these same arguments.

Lamont quoted William Hague on lemmings and reminded us that Europe is the unemployment blackspot of the world. "Of course the single currency is going to happen. And of course there are good arguments for joining it, just as some people thought there were good arguments for joining the exchange-rate mechanism ... At least when we were locked into the ERM it was possible to withdraw, to self-destruct, but with a single currency no escape is possible ... If our economy has not converged with Europe's in 25 years it is hardly likely to converge in the next five years ... When the CBI and the TUC agree I think it's time to start counting the spoons."

"Fellow lemmings," Clarke addressed us, looking around the chamber in reminiscent mood. "The curtains look a little older and I have to say so are some of the arguments, and so are the fears." He proceeded to give a nostalgic rundown on 35 years of the repetitive European debate: "I have been re-stuffed, I have been in many ministries, I have been to more European councils than most people have had hot dinners ..."



Valerie Grove

When I came here we had the Empire Empire organised by Lord Beaverbrook, now we have Mr Conrad Black ... and at every stage the same fears were put forward. This was to be the end of Britain as a powerful nation state. We would be flooded by poor immigrant Italian workers, we were handing over control of our destiny ... The same fears have been expressed each time. We are taking the UK into the 21st century. I do not believe we are talking about the end of the nation state. I am a patriot, but we have to adjust to what the modern world requires."

Afterwards Clarke, shrouded in cigar smoke, and Lamont were both fussed, queues forming of undergraduates eager to ask questions, take photographs, get autographs. Lamont found himself petitioned for advice: should I join Goldman Sachs? "My son has just joined Merrill Lynch," said Lamont. Should I start my own business? "Oxbridge people are so careerist," said Lamont.

In a glass case in the Union Society building is a photograph showing Lamont (looking slim, black-haired) Clarke (looking much the same), and others of the "Cambridge Mafia" that came into fullest bloom in John Major's cabinet: Howard, Gummer, Lilley — with Norman Fowler party chairman, and Leon Brittan in Europe. "Leop was earlier," said Lamont, "but became friends later. We went on holiday and were once arrested going the wrong way down a one-way street in Sarajevo. — But in our day the Union

speakers who made most impression were lefties, like John Dunn the political philosopher, the Communist Brian Pollitt, now at Glasgow, Angus Calder the historian with his stern icy stare, who once approached me about joining CND after I had spoken against the motion that this House would fight for West Berlin. By miles the best speaker of our time was an Indian, Mani Alvar, who later worked with Rajiv Gandhi. And a lot of our Union contemporaries were not politicians, but lawyers who have quietly forged a quiet path at the Chancery Bar."

Lamont was going straight back to London, to be at the Treasury yesterday morning, "refreshing his memory" for the inevitable book. Clarke stayed the night in his old college, roused by the Today programme at 7.30am yesterday to speak his mind about Tony Blair and the Formula One debacle, which both men are naturally enjoying. "Blair is obsessed with fashionable, slick, famous, rich people, having discovered something called big business," said Lamont. "Thatcher was prepared to tell big business to get lost."

The result of the debate: Lamont's EMU-scepticism lost by 200 to Clarke's EMU-philes, who numbered more than twice as many. "I've been fairly shattered if we hadn't won by at least two-to-one," said Clarke. "Any young audience, particularly university undergraduates, is always pro-Europe."

Loveable pedant is comic tour de force

THEATRE

The Beast of John Shuttlesworth
Bloomsbury

WHILE it may be true that Geoff Boycott is deserting his homeland for the soft South, John Shuttlesworth remains defiantly loyal to his Sheffield roots. No amount of fame would ever seduce this homespun philosopher and ham-fisted exponent of the Yamaha keyboard.

For those who have yet to encounter him, the middle-aged, bespectacled Shuttlesworth is the alter ego of the actor Graham Fellows — better known to my generation of disgruntled Seventies adolescents as the one-hit-wonder Jilted John. Determined to make his mark in showbusiness, the eternally optimistic Shuttlesworth cranks out one magnificently dire song after another while regaling his audience with monologues on life, love and washing-up.

A loveable pedant, he measures out his life in Curly-Wurly wrappers. The catch this time is that his manager has decided that the time has come for Shuttlesworth to show his darker side.

The beast within proves elusive; no one would ever be fooled by his



Shuttlesworth: loyal to roots

repeated threats to bite the head off of a chicken as a grand finale. One swear word is all he can manage. This is a tour de force of comic observation. If you have seen the tiresome Margarita Pracatan's stage show, you will know how narrow such self-referential humour can become. Fellows opens in similarly brazen style, but begins to develop a flesh-and-blood character whose very banality proves endlessly fascinating.

There is not a slack moment all evening. At any moment Shuttlesworth can veer off into vignettes and reminiscences that tell us more about contemporary life than a barrowful of Booker Prize-winning novels. It is not surprising, given his source material, that he has been compared to Mike Leigh. Yet there is an abiding gentleness here, too.

For all his delusions of grandeur we laugh with Shuttlesworth, not at him. Mr Pooter is a little well and driving an Austin Ambassador, Y-reg.

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The art of civilised conservation

Zoos are about biodiversity, not Disney, argues Colin Tudge

It's good to learn that Angela Eagle, the Under-Secretary for Environment and Sport, is updating the Zoo Licensing Act. It suggests that our Government is taking zoos seriously. It must if it cares at all about conservation. As the next millennium unfolds, zoos will play an ever more important role.

"Millennium" in this context is not mere rhetoric to add a trumpet note of grandeur to a political plan. The challenge which now faces us is how to maintain our fellow species for the next million years. In terms of conservation this is a perfectly sensible unit of time.

Those who question the role of zoos do not understand the realities. They say that we can conserve wildlife only by protecting habitats. But the continuing fires in Indonesia (home to thousands of unique creatures) and the war in Rwanda (almost the last stand of the mountain gorilla) show how uncertain the best-aid plans can be.

Even when environmental protection seems to be working, it is rarely good enough. Wild populations cannot survive in the long term unless they are large: several hundred animals are needed to maintain sufficient genetic variation. But wild tigers, for example, need up to 100 sq km each. Unless a reserve that size of Yorkshire can be underwritten, a viable population cannot be sustained. It may appear possible for a few years — but only by chance can small populations last more than a century. Of course, we should maintain as much habitat as possible. But we will still need reserve populations. This means captive breeding, which at present means zoos.

Zoos, however, must evolve — and smartly. Many do excellent work, but there is still a lot of fakery. Endangered species can be difficult to rear, and rare animals are often less spectacular than common ones. Jersey's Mauritius pink pigeons are hard to keep, but a camel — apparently more marvellous than a pigeon — can be bred by almost anyone.

But breeding is not conservation: wild populations of the animal really do need backup. Breeding should be part of a grand plan in which all the animals of a given species in different zoos are swapped around in one unified genetic pool.

These criteria are sometimes met — there are grand and operative projects for tigers and tamarins, for example — and sometimes, as with the Arabian oryx, plans have already succeeded and moved on. But some zoos still produce animal offspring to please their visitors and then knock them over the head once the season is good. The real question to ask, however, is: why are they there?

The great modern zoos combine captive breeding with various endeavours in the wild. Again, Jersey is a model.

It has many creatures from Mauritius (Carl Jones restored the native kestrel "from a bag of bones") and plays a serious role in that country's environmental policy.

As the centuries pass, the wilderness will meet the zoos halfway. The concept of "managed wilderness" sounds contradictory, not to say risible: the ultimate surrender. But the alternative is wasteland.

In practice, we can learn from the great landscape gardeners of the 18th and 19th centuries. What Capability Brown achieved in fragments of Oxfordshire we must contrive over continents. But where he thought only of aesthetics and of pleasing his patrons, we must think of biodiversity — the rights and lives of other species — while at the same time meeting the aspirations of humankind. Zoos must be subsumed in a far deeper and broader endeavour. But there should be continuity: future conservation policies must largely be founded in the zoos of the present.

So what of the here and now — the things that can happen in the lifetime of governments, and, indeed, of zoo directors? Well, they must amaze us by their collective acts. As Ms Eagle's initiative implies, institutions must look to shuffle along the spectrum from the certain to the uncertain, from the certain to the uncertain, from the certain to the uncertain. Many zoo directors must ask whether they have a conservation policy at all, as opposed to an occasional outburst of animal offspring. But crucially, too, zoos must transform their image.

London Zoo almost committed suicide in the late 1980s by leaning feebly towards Disney. It failed not simply through lack of wealth (you can't do Disney without razzamazz) but because it mistook its audience. In those days, some of its keepers, vets and scientists were doing brilliant work with rhinos and invertebrates, but visitors were never brought in on the act. They just saw animals in enclosures and breathed the ruff of manure and of hamburgers.

Zoos must learn from the great galleries and theatres. They must appeal to people's intelligence — but do so with style, serious but not pompous. The Tate and the National Theatre are good models. Art is a symbol of civilisation. That is how we should see our zoos. Some have achieved this: Cincinnati, San Diego and a few in this country, such as Jersey and Edinburgh. For the most part, however, zoos are ranked as "entertainments". They see themselves as theme parks.

Strangely, although some British zoos are municipal and many benefit from charitable status, none receives regular government money. Their task now is to show us why they should.

Colin Tudge is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics.

NATURE NOTES

Fig. 1 The leaf is grown on the moral high ground



Peter Brookes is 45

Tobacco

(Thehoneymoonum isoverum)

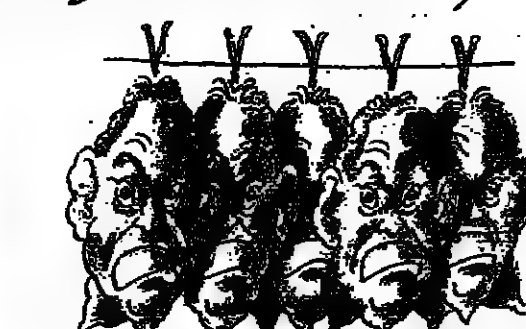


Fig. 2 It is left to twist in the wind during curing



Fig. 3 Rolled over



Fig. 4 Pocketed

How do they manage?

The unsung hero of British business follows instinct, not faddish theories

It has been a good week for memorials. London has said farewell to Viscount Tonypantry and Sir James Goldsmith in a style appropriate to the men. Journalism has remembered Vincent Hanna and Felix Barker. A mammoth ceremony is in the offing for Sir Isaiah Berlin. Autumn has heard many a half-remembered poem and beloved tune. Summer's sad harvest is gathered in. The memorial service is an eerie institution. It does more than honour the dead. For those of a certain age, it is a roll-call of survivors. Is that old Bill still with us? Can that be Joe over there? At this time of year "four weddings and a funeral" is simply five memorials.

The Times last week said farewell to one of its own, Peter Roberts, who died just after retiring as the paper's managing editor at the age of 62. There seems a peculiar cruelty to such a death, as if cheating a man of the eventual reward to his labours. Yet Roberts adored his job. He was not a well-known or flamboyant figure, even among journalists. He professed no byline, wrote no column, blazoned no opinion. His memorial service last Tuesday was attended not by the glitterati of Westminster, but by those who worked beside him for a quarter century on *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*.

They were often awful years. At Gray's Inn Road and Wapping, journalists struggled to produce newspapers while thunderous exchanges took place overhead between unions and proprietors, rioters and politicians. It was relentless trench warfare, testing friendship and sometimes demanding physical courage. First as managing editor at *The Sunday Times* and, from 1990, in that role at *The Times*, Roberts was regimental sergeant-major to these great but often battered titles. He was keeper of the ego, custodian of the cupboard skeletons, psychoanalyst, sorcerer and friend.

He had an instinct for "the team". He understood the balance of its personalities and understood that its key ingredient was loyalty. He knew the office crook and the office saint. He was mother superior and father confessor. He was impresario of the budget and anaesthetist at the operating table of hire and fire. Most organisations spawn large bureaucracies to do what Roberts did from a single office. A newspaper has no time for such bureaucracy. Its es-

sence is urgency. Roberts was a master of decision. He was that underrated, rarely memorialised, taken-for-granted hero of British industry, the first-class time manager. The modern corporate manager is uncelebrated. His task is to bring people and project together in corporate wedlock. His public reward is often no more than a clock and a pension. This lowly status has long perplexed the experts. Peter Drucker gave his epic, *The Practice of Management*, the ironic subtitle, "a study of the most important function in American society". Since Drucker, management gurus have wrestled to reinforce his message. They have surrounded management with "theory", to render it a professional activity alongside law, medicine and accounting. In doing so, they have hoped to raise the manager's image beyond that of bureaucrat, of bean-counter and paperclip pusher.

In the process, rubbish was written, companies upheaved, lives wrecked and able men and women distracted from honest labour. Management was confused with entrepreneurship. The task of administering an organisation efficiently was confused with risk-taking. From Barings Bank to the Prison Service to Covent Garden Opera, the roles of leader, entrepreneur and manager were entangled and accountability lost. Management was oversold in theory yet under-appreciated in practice. The pundits sought to make a crucial but inherently unglamorous activity irresistibly sexy.

They did this by making management seem hard. Drucker, the father of management theorists, first wrote at a time when corporations were growing large and unwieldy. They needed managing and the managers needed help. Troops had to be marshalled in different formations as companies diversified and found themselves assailed by competitors. By the 1980s the manager was deluged with advice. He became hero and victim of every fad, of down-

sizing, delayering, outsourcing, re-engineering, demassing, future shocking, hotdesking and, when thoroughly constipated, matrix-management. Companies were told to build management centres, install management training, practise management development.

As if the very word were toxic, the manager was renamed executive, director, team leader, even vice-president. Management schools became business schools. Degrees were in "business administration". Even at *The Times*, the manager of the editorial department is the managing editor rather than the more accurate title of editorial manager. (There used to be one "editor" on the newspaper; now about 50 people hold this title.)

In their recent history of management theory (*The Witch Doctors*), John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge trace the hunting of the manager to the rise of the deal-maker over the manager. Since the dealer can transform a share price by a shrewd sale or purchase, or by drastic corporate restructuring, he is naturally the darling of the stock market. In the 1970s and 1980s, "big was back", aided by the ideology of "greed is good".

At the time, so-called middle managers were fired in droves for being "cost centres" or barriers to change. Leadership was an active noun, management was passive. Managers were portrayed in the guise of Munch's *The Scream*. Organisations were told to subject themselves to continuous re-engineering, a maxim obeyed in Britain's public sector by British Rail, the NHS and the BBC. The firm became a function of chaos theory, with the dealer-impresario as "strange attractor".

Management theory has now turned back on itself. According to Micklethwait and Wooldridge, small is again beautiful. Huge transnational mergers and globalisations are little more than ego-trips by chief executives. Big corporations are so

big that, like sharks, they must constantly move and gobble. Yet as they grow they fall foul of regulators. Growth becomes harder and movement impossible. The competitive future lies with small companies, rich in knowledge and the morale that allows that knowledge to be exploited.

Thus the office is back, together with the employee, the manager, the canteen and the personal encounter. In his most recent utterances, Drucker has attacked the Internet as depersonalising the firm, substituting cold short-term messages for the casual exchanges that are key to innovation. This revisionism is taken further by another American guru, Ichak Adizes. He argues that companies are biological organisms. They experience growing pains, emotional crises and bouts of illness like a person or a family. Crudely re-engineer them to meet a short-term stock market objective and they die.

This new theory suggests that firms must pursue not chaos but the opposite, an orderly progress to agreed objectives. Such a firm thrives not on fear but on devotion and trust, on seeing itself as a social community, following ethical as well as commercial principles. It seeks "kind stakeholders" not "cruel shareholders". The manager is reinstated as the backbone of such an organisation. As Drucker once put it, "well-run firms do not need supermen".

No activity is more prone to "fad surfing" than management science. I am sure someone will arrive soon to shoot down Drucker and Adizes. But I like their message. It puts a premium on stable, sensitive administration. It sees management as an intuitive rather than a schooled activity. While I can see that some managers might be helped by training, the essence of the skill lies in personal qualities of sympathy and leadership. This is another way of saying that the new way of running firms is much like the old. The manager may crave appreciation, but it will not come from loading him with academic status or decking him in novel titles. The best manager in my business was Peter Roberts. He had no qualification to his name and, to the best of my knowledge, never darkened the door of any seminar.

In remembering his career, I suspect I am celebrating more than just one job well done. I am celebrating thousands.

Simon Jenkins

State secrets

ROBIN COOK and Clare Short are each rushing headlong into that television version of the bonfire of the vanities: the fly-on-the-wall documentary. Camera crews are being allowed to explore the quiet corners and intimate secrets of the Foreign Office and the International Development Department for broadcast in the new year on the BBC. They are being shot despite the disaster of the Gordon Brown blockbuster last month. The two-part documentary on ITV illustrated the extraordinary power of the Chancellor's pet spin-doctor, Charlie Whelan, and his boy wonder, Ed Balls.

This prompted Alastair Campbell, Labour's chief spinocrat, to rule that minions — Cabinet ministers and their ilk — should limit on-screen appearances to reading press releases (preferably written by him). But now there is a danger that these will be equally damaging. After all, Brown's flick was supposed to show how he had won the election single-handed, but actually gave the impression that the Chancellor is



Snapped up: Cook and Short

rather less important than his advisers. Michael Cockerell, the heavyweight film-maker who has produced programmes on former PMs, is making *Cook: The Movie*. The Short biopic is being made by supposedly sympathetic producers. Risky enterprises.



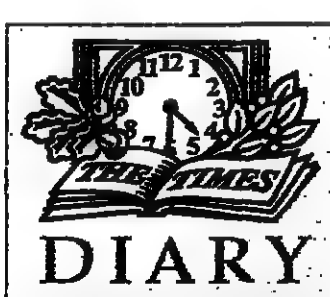
"And here's the cocktail cabinet..."

● **POOR Prince Charles.** His parents popped into a refuge for the homeless before lunch on Britannia yesterday. As Prince Philip signed the visitors' book, he asked the Queen: "What's the date? Is it the 13th?" No. Her Majesty replied with a grumpy expression, "It's the 14th. Charles's birthday."

Peer pressure

WHO should be observed slipping from the office of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead but Hugh Dykes — erstwhile Tory MP who trotted over to the Lib Dems. He was angling for ermine in an attempt to re-enter Parliament? "He was grinning from ear to ear," a peer tells me.

The sighting lends support to those who feel that defecting Tory MPs are not motivated solely by political conscience. They point out that Emma Nicholson was elevated after 18 months of loyal service to the Liberals, Norman Lamont, by contrast, who had been a true blue, has no peerage despite being a former Chancellor. Jenkins presides over a generous collection of Liberal peers and would rub along



DIARY

JASPER GERARD

well with the equally pro-European Dykes (who saw his 11,405 majority in Harrow East turn into a Labour one of 9,738). Should he become Lord Dykes of Hanger Lane, or some such minor, there could be a stampede of other wet Tories. Hmmm. Lord Temple-Morris of Brussels has a certain ring.

● **COMMONS corridor exchange** between Ken Livingstone and Peter Mandelson. M: "Ah, Mr Mayor." L: "Over your dead body." M: "No Ken, we'll be glad to see the back of you in this place."

Question time?

HE has long been considered a happy — and dashing — bachelor, but the pleasures of single life could be fading for Alan Duncan. The Tory vice-chairman, now 40, is understood to be wondering if it is not time to marry. Just as his former lodger — and now boss — suddenly decided to wed at 36, Duncan has mentioned to friends that he is con-

sidering a change. Not that being a bachelor hinders advancement in the Tory party. "In the past, the Tory party has appeared almost to persecute those who don't live a traditional life," he said a couple of weeks back. When I telephoned my congratulations, he was subdued. Interested parties should send me particulars and I promise to forward their candidatures.

Royal park

YESTERDAY found Princess Anne breezing into Links, a smart-ish shop in Jermyn Street selling cuff-links and silver shoe-horns — the stuff Charles might fancy for his birthday. Her driver parked the Bentley outside in a disabled slot. A traffic warden loomed but was shooed off by two policemen, one wielding a truncheon. Anne re-emerged, happily oblivious.



Not so mellow yellow: Chris Smith and feathered friend

PARTY TIMES

PEACE was the touchy-feely theme as socially concerned sorts gathered for the premiere of *Welcome to Sarajevo* — an earthy yarn about reporter types shackled up in the Holiday Inn on Snipers Alley. So nasty and upsetting were the scenes of the war-ravaged city that Demi Moore, the bitch star of *Gl Jane*, emerged from an earlier screening wittering: "Did that stuff really happen?" Her fellow thespians Julie Delpy and Emily Watson seemed more aware that Sarajevo had seen some rather sticky times and talked quite intelligently at a bash in the National Liberal Club, Whitehall, on Thursday night.

Spirits were higher earlier when Chris Smith, Heritage Secretary, breezed into the Music of Black Origin Awards in Covent Garden. Dinner found him next to the presenter Selina Scott, with whom he struck up an unexpected bond. After three thunderous Afro-Caribbean courses, the music began: Busta Rhymes, Ziggy Marley (son of Bob) — novel sounds to the diary's sensitive ear. For Smith, a delicate flower, it was too much. After posing with Bootsie Collins, he fled before 10 o'clock. William Hague, having visited the Notting Hill Carnival, stayed slightly later with his new rasta chums — and even managed a cautious gyration on his way out.

An uneasy alliance replaces the anti-Saddam coalition

When Madeleine Albright planned her visit to London this week it was with a clear schedule in mind. A Friday meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu was to leave the Israeli Prime Minister in no doubt about her intense irritation with the slow progress of the Middle East peace process.

Tony Blair and Robin Cook, with Britain shortly to assume the mantle of the European Union presidency, would play an invaluable supporting role. Having delivered her views with characteristic frankness, Ms Albright would move on to meet Yasser Arafat in Switzerland today. She would then attend a conference — promoting economic links between the Arab world and Israel — that opens in Qatar tomorrow. American leadership would be very publicly reasserted.

A funny thing happened on the way from Washington. Ms Albright duly scolded Mr Netanyahu yesterday, but their talks were overshadowed by the impending showdown with Iraq. On that question, the Secretary of State and Israeli leader were united. Mr Blair and Mr Cook have had a similar experience in their dealings with the Israeli Prime Minister. Like it or not, and the Foreign Office does not like it much, the United States, Britain and Israel are allies in the struggle to contain Saddam Hussein. All the evidence is that they are virtually alone.

The mighty coalition that once assembled against Iraq now seems desperately fragile. There are some states — France, Russia, China — who have decided that they would rather trade with Saddam than remove him. Others — in the immediate region have resolved that the anti-Americanism of their local populations poses a more immediate danger than Iraq's emerging arsenal. Time will tell if that calculation proves accurate.

There are a few who believe that Iran is the true threat to their security and thus despair of the American obsession with Saddam. As a result, Israel is the sole state in the area that will support action to eliminate Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear ambitions. That stance, in a sense, is part of the allied problem. The same Arab countries that once

mobilised against Saddam — Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, even Kuwait — are now isolated from the American Administration. None of them will support resolute measures against Iraq. All of them will condemn force when it comes. Few of them will be present in Qatar, although most will attend the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit in Tehran next month. The stated reason will be the "intransigence" of Mr Netanyahu and the failure of President Clinton to extract more concessions from him. In their view Israel's role in the peace process is merely to concede vast chunks of its territory and treat explosions against its citizens as an unfortunate inconvenience.

Iraq and Israel are linked and Saddam will exploit that connection. He did so directly in 1991 when he attacked Israel after the air war started against him. He said then that he would surrender Kuwait in return for Arab Palestine. George Bush implicitly recognised the same factor when he implored Israel not to return fire and promised Arab allies that he would maximise pressure on Yitzhak Shamir once Operation Desert Storm was over. The President achieved his political objectives. Mr Clinton and Mr Blair will once again want to exploit Israeli intelligence while keeping their distance. Mr Netanyahu will co-operate but — understandably — will cash his chips later.

A struggle against Saddam over the next few months will be more troublesome than that of seven years ago. That might lead some to conclude that it is not worth the effort. This would be mistaken. In 1990, Iraq posed a real threat but predominantly to its immediate neighbours. This time, its construction of exceptionally destructive weapons challenges the wider region and international security.

The United States, Britain and Israel may well be the only nations willing to fight this dictator. That alignment might have short-term diplomatic disadvantages. Appeasement, however, is an unattractive option. As Margaret Thatcher memorably told President Bush in August 1990, this is "no time to go wobbly".

CBI challenged on its EMU policy

From Lord Vinson

Sir, The CBI (letter, November 10) seems to have forgotten that economic prosperity depends on political stability. Man does not live by bread alone. Our democratic system is no doubt imperfect, but we simply cannot take it for granted that, if we alter it on a major scale — which is precisely what Maastricht, followed by European economic and monetary union, will do — the system will hold.

Currently, our democracy just works. People do feel that they can, to some extent, affect their future and right wrongs with the present system. We are represented by one MP to approximately 75,000 voters, but that is passing to Brussels and in the European Parliament there is one member to some 500,000 voters. So there will be little chance of the elector seeing his elected at a surgery on Saturday morning.

There is also little likelihood that his Euro-MP can noble some Brussels official to put right a wrong, or that the MEP will have sufficient time to answer his enormous correspondence; or that he himself can affect the issues as part of a small minority in the European Parliament.

Without serious debate, we shall have so stretched the democratic elastic that it will surely snap. Like the French lorry-drivers, people may resort to taking the law into their own hands.

It is precisely because Eurosceptics like myself seek peace coupled with prosperity that we are fearful of the consequences of a fully federated Europe.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL VINSON,
House of Lords,
November 11.

From Mr Wilfred Aspinall

Sir, It is quite right to remind the CBI that joining a single currency goes well beyond a simple business decision (leading article, November 10).

The agenda in Europe is to create a regime whereby most, if not all, regulatory and legislative practices are initiated in Brussels. This will inevitably lead to control over taxation, spending limits in each member state, and use of gold reserves lodged with the European central bank.

Our ability in the UK to adjust our economic policies to enable us to be competitive when trading in both Europe and the rest of the world would be taken from us. This is the political reality.

I attend meetings every week in Brussels where the type of language used by my colleagues, such as "European integration", "deeper integration", "social and economic markets", points to a hidden agenda for the creation of a European superstate, perhaps not now but in years to come. The ball is rolling.

The rush to be in this EU club in order to stay cosy and friendly with partners in the EU will not be to our advantage under the current treaty provisions. We need to fully examine all the implications, not just a few.

Yours sincerely,
WILFRED ASPINALL,
(Member, European Communities Economic and Social Committee),
Rue Ravenstein 2, 1000 Brussels,
November 11.

From the Director-General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, I was interested to read your Business report today, headed "CBI and TUC to agree union rights proposals". Clear reference was made to "business" and the unions agreeing on proposals which are to be put to the Prime Minister on the issue of compulsory recognition of trade unions. As a major business organisation, with over 40,000 members, we would like to know what status and authority this agreement will have and how our members' views are going to be accounted for.

We have strong views on compulsory recognition; we do not want it.

Yours faithfully,
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS,
Director-General,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1,
November 10.

From Mr Ronald Wheeler

Sir, I attended a CBI fringe meeting at the Tory conference, "Maintaining the Momentum", on October 8 at 7pm in the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool. The president, Sir Colin Marshall, apologised for the absence abroad of their director-general, Adair Turner, and then apologised that because he had been double-booked he had to leave to host a dinner party at 8pm.

Unfortunately for them, guest-speaker John Redwood, MP, was detained at an earlier meeting, and until his delayed arrival, Mr Peter Agar, the CBI's deputy director-general, sat alone on the platform doing his best with questions and answers to prove the "momentum had not been lost".

This cavalier approach to the Tories adds fuel to the argument that the CBI has simply jumped into bed with the Government and will support the euro for that reason alone, without considering what's best for its members.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD WHEELER,
18 Kingsland Gardens Close,
Mannamere, Plymouth, Devon,
November 9.

Facts or fancies on moral questions

From the Chief Executive of the Association for Public Health

Sir, Does Roger Scruton ("How 'science' can confuse morality", November 10) really believe that school sex education, "as currently practised", is nothing more than "vicarious paedophilia"? May I draw his attention to a study published this year in the *American Journal of Public Health*, which found that the provision of condoms in New York schools increases their use — so helping to protect against pregnancy and HIV infection — but has no effect on rates of sexual activity. This is only the latest in a long series of investigations which have shown significant beneficial effects for school sex education.

It is high time that the many skilled teachers and health professionals received our full support as they try, with parental support, to educate teenagers about the challenges and pitfalls of sex before it is too late. Their detractors' success in undermining them provides one important explanation for the UK's high teenage pregnancy rate.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD REID, Chief Executive,
Association for Public Health,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1,
November 10.

From Mr R. Stafford

Sir, I would be interested to know exactly how Professor Scruton conducted the experiments that have led him to the conclusion that a fish caught on a hook feels more pain than a stag or fox pursued by a pack of hounds; how, single-handedly, he managed to overturn one of the most basic concepts of zoology — that the nervous system of mammals is more advanced than that of fish.

I would have far more respect for the professor if he were simply to state that he enjoys hunting.

Yours faithfully,
R. STAFFORD,
12 Marlborough Court,
Marlborough Hill,
Harrow, Middlesex,
November 10.

From Lord Crickhowell

Sir, It is deeply depressing that the Government should threaten the independence of English National Opera — a company that attracts wide popular support and makes nonsense of the assertion that opera is an elitist entertainment (letters, November 5, 8 and 12).

Just as depressing is the serious threat posed to the major touring companies, Scottish Opera, Opera North, Welsh National Opera and Glyndebourne Touring Opera, which take opera of the highest quality to cities outside London.

If the Royal Opera and ENO were forced to tour extensively, the effect on the budgets of those companies would be so damaging as to threaten their survival — an outcome that would indeed ensure that opera was to be for the privileged few.

Yours etc,
CRICKHOWELL,
(Director, Welsh National Opera,
1988-92),
House of Lords,
November 11.

From Mrs Doris Lessing

Sir, We, as a country, are happy to write off millions of pounds for a contingency fund on arms or other big contract, but we grudge even a fraction of that money for the arts. Yet the arts are what we are good at. Other countries know this, if we don't.

I have been struck by the spiteful pleasure in some of the comments on the opera crisis made by people who

From Mr C. T. Pryde

Sir, Roger Scruton attempts to replace scientific argument with a morally intellectual and, presumably, superior set of rules. All he succeeds in doing is to imply that teachers of sex education are the role models for paedophiles, that ignorance of sex safeguards chastity and that Sigmund Freud is largely responsible for under-age sex in this country.

He also refers to the "fact" that sex education "is devoted to... making children feel 'good' about things which fuddy-duddies wish to 'repress'"; and he tells Mr Michael Foster, MP, "for a fact" that the fish he hooks "feel far more pain and fear than any hunted fox".

Really? Surely the word "fact" should not be used so casually in a morally based argument. The only fact I can discern about the professor's article is that it is highly opinionated and deeply misguided.

Yours sincerely,
CAMERON PRYDE,
(Teacher of mathematics),
The Blackpool Sixth Form College,
Highfurlong, Blackpool, Lancashire,
November 10.

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, As a philosopher Roger Scruton is right to point out that levels of stress hormones are no better a measure of suffering than of thrills. Bungee-jumping and marathon-running are not confined to masochists.

Also, as a scientist, he is right to point out the lack of an empirical basis for Freud's fantasies. But to Freud they were just as much "common sense" as Roger Scruton's empathies with fish or fox are to him.

Philosophers or dictators who have recourse to "common sense" for answers to moral questions can always have it their own way.

Sincerely,
KENNETH MOLE,
The School,
Buckhorn Weston,
Gillingham, Dorset,
drkmole@aol.com
November 10.

Arts funding and independence of opera companies

From Lord Crickhowell

Sir, It is deeply depressing that the Government should threaten the independence of English National Opera — a company that attracts wide popular support and makes nonsense of the assertion that opera is an elitist entertainment (letters, November 5, 8 and 12).

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Sir, We, as a country, are happy to write off millions of pounds for a contingency fund on arms or other big contract, but we grudge even a fraction of that money for the arts. Yet the arts are what we are good at. Other countries know this, if we don't.

I have been struck by the spiteful pleasure in some of the comments on the opera crisis made by people who

should be rejoicing that our opera and theatre are so good that visitors come here from all over the world.

If the ENO is destroyed — and there are those who want that — it will be the end of one of the liveliest, bravest and genuinely popular artistic efforts in London.

This can be such a nasty little country; so philistine, so mean, and often so stupid.

Yours faithfully,
DORIS LESSING,
24 Gondar Gardens, NW6,
November 11.

From Mr Tony Clayton

Sir, Chris Smith is surely being disingenuous in suggesting three companies share Covent Garden.

It may well be that London doesn't need and can't afford two opera companies and if so he should have said so. Or is this simply a way of disposing with ENO and throwing even more money at the Opera House management, which has already been accused of fiscal ineptitude? Perhaps he should have cut costs and solved another problem by suggesting the peers share the Lower Chamber.

Yours faithfully,
TONY CLAYTON,
Bennetts,
Mill Road, Buxhall, Suffolk.

From the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the Corporation of London

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to read Simon Jenkins's comment ("It's a real

Smoke signals on Labour donation

From Mrs Lynne Hodge

Sir, After the controversy surrounding Bernie Ecclestone's donation of one million pounds to the Labour Party and the leniency shown by the International Automobile Federation to Michael Schumacher's "instinctive" ramming of a rival (reports, November 12), I am very surprised that decent law-abiding tobacco companies want any association with Formula One motor racing.

Yours faithfully,
LYNNE HODGE,
Church Farm House,
North Tuddenham,
Dereham, Norfolk,
adrian.hodge@compuserve.com
November 14.

From Mr Caspar Rock

Sir, It used to be that political donations bought favours from government — it now seems that short-term, interest-free loans will suffice.

Yours faithfully,
CASPAR ROCK,
75 Burnthwaite Road, SW6,
caspar.rock@framington.co.uk
November 13.

From Mr Brian H. Taylor

Sir, Samuel Johnson said to Boswell: Sir, I have two very good reasons for not printing any list of subscribers: — one, that I have lost all the names; — the other, that I have spent all the money.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN H. TAYLOR,
Silverstone,
Ashley Park Road,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,
November 12.

From Mr A. J. Watson

Sir, It is clear why the Labour Party vehemently denounced brown envelopes — they are simply not big enough.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. WATSON,
60 Clissold Crescent, N16,
November 11.

WINDSOR'S GOLDEN PARTY

A fine restoration for a fiftieth anniversary

When fire swept through Windsor Castle five years ago, the Queen and other members of her family did what they could to help the firemen save the treasures of the State Apartments from the blaze. Her anguish was clear for all to see. And indeed, she herself told the nation at Christmas that the fire was, above all, what had made 1992 her *annus horribilis*. Yesterday, her mood was far sunnier. Her beloved castle has been magnificently restored, within budget and ahead of schedule, and she threw a party to celebrate the largest historic restoration project in Britain this century.

Nothing could be a more welcome way to celebrate the Queen's golden wedding anniversary. She, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales have taken close personal interest in the rebuilding and refurbishment of the damaged rooms; the magnificence of the renovated St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room will bring them particular pleasure. The Government also can be pleased: the final bill, at £35 million, is far less than originally estimated, and the bulk of the money has been raised by private donations, entrance charges and souvenir sales. The taxpayer has paid little for the carelessness of the workmen who began the blaze.

The restoration of Windsor has not only repaired, and in important details even improved, a symbol of Britain's heritage: it is a tribute also to the craftsmanship of the thousands of people who have used new skills and ancient mysteries to follow the

intentions of the original builders. Erecting oaken hammerbeam roofs, installing intricate plaster ceilings, reassembling chandeliers and carving curved fans of timber ribs for the chapel are skills that would normally take years to master and for which there is nowadays little demand. Several disastrous fires in recent years have, however, given almost continuous employment to those initiates of ancient construction techniques. Two of the most spectacular were at Hampton Court in 1986, and at Uppark, the stately home in Sussex which burnt down in August 1989 leaving 4,500 dustbins filled with rubble and at least half a million items to be salvaged.

Both buildings have now been restored and reopened, at huge cost admittedly, but to a degree of architectural magnificence, material authenticity and engineering ingenuity that gives British restorers a claim to be now among the most versatile in Europe. In each case, ancient arts had to be learnt afresh: databases scoured for precise replication of lost features and the latest computer-assisted photogrammetry incorporated in the vast project to co-ordinate the rebirth of nationally important buildings. Windsor has been able to draw on skills already well honed. The restoration of ancient buildings brings out a perfectionism rarely found in the execution of modern architecture. Not only the Royal Family, but the whole nation can celebrate the dedication and expertise that have returned Windsor to its integrity.

BIRDS OF A CERTAIN AGE

Which is the oldest flying creature of them all?

Britain's oldest wild bird, a fulmar aged over 50, was reported missing presumed dead this week. It was not the oldest bird ever known. That distinction is held by an Andean condor which was presented to Moscow Zoo in 1892 and died there, aged at least 72, in 1964. The oldest bird known for certain in Britain was Cockey, the sulphur-crested cockatoo, who died in London Zoo in 1982, at the grand old age of 57. In his green and salad days he was famous for his greeting, "Hallo, hallo, hallo!", but he lost all his feathers at the end, and lived wrapped up in a baby's nappy. He was, however, presented with a medal from the Burlington Arcade Association for making the capital a friendlier place. The oldest bird in London Zoo at present is that great heroine, Josephine the hornbill, who is probably no more than 52.

Life is not so easy for birds in the wild. Enormous numbers of them die in their first weeks in the wide world out of the egg. Among small birds such as robins and blue tits, nearly all the infants and "teenagers" die. The prospects look up when they reach adulthood the following summer, but are still not good. It has been calculated that of every 1,000 adult robins living now, 500 will be dead in a year's time, 250 more the year after, and so on with half the survivors dying annually. When only one is left, the expected mortality rate per annum goes up to 100 per cent.

Larger birds — especially sea birds and

sturdy waders — do better, as shown by the recovery of ringed birds. The oldest wild bird that the British Trust for Ornithology's ringing scheme has thrown up, apart from the late lamented fulmar, is an oystercatcher that was ringed in north Norfolk and died there 33 years later. A storm petrel aged 30 is still flying around the oceans. Best of all is to be born a puffin. Adult puffins have a general expectation of life of 20 years, and there are probably some 40-year-olds floating in the Atlantic.

Curiously enough, few have ever detected symptoms of physical ageing in birds. They certainly have a startling capacity to live far longer than their normal span. A million greenfinches have been ringed, and none of the recoveries has ever been more than two years old. But one such greenfinch, which had lost a wing, was held in captivity — and lived on, singing away, for 11 years more.

Perhaps, like old soldiers, birds never actually die. They get killed by cats, or succumb to starvation or disease, and their potential immortality — or at least great longevity — is snatched away from them. A robin rebreast in a cage may put all heaven in a rage — but it does a lot for the life statistics.

Some might argue from this that the State should take more wild birds into care? Let that not be so. Better, surely, for a blue tit a short and happy life of 1.3 years, than an eternity behind bars with feather-headed politicians.

Blessed village

From Brigadier H. W. K. Pye

Sir, The little parish of All Saints' Asholt on the Quantocks has no war memorial on which to place a wreath on Remembrance Sunday because nobody was killed in either World War. All those who joined up returned.

I understand this is known as a "luck parish".

Yours faithfully,
HUGH PYE,
Tuxwell Farm,
Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Home from sea

From Miss Jenny Rees

Sir, How can there be any doubt, now, about the future of the Royal Yacht? Tonight she lies in the Pool of London (report, November 14), captivating visitors from all over the world. Here she should stay.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY REES,
4 Gemini House,
180-182 Bernonsey Street, SE1,
November 13.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

News on demand

From Mr Christopher A. Long

Sir, You quote Mr Tony Hall, chief executive of the BBC's new 24-hour news service, as saying that it is "meeting the growing appetite for news on demand" (report, November 10). If this is what Mr Hall thinks he's supplying he is mistaken.

News on demand (NOD) is a standard definition in the news industry of the sort of service increasingly offered by Internet news providers. This allows us to specify and receive only the sorts of news items we ourselves define — eg, by subject, category, location, language, news source — as and when we choose. Admirable though its new service may be, the BBC is offering us no added choice whatever. It is merely giving us its own well-known brand, 24 hours a day.

Sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER LONG,
48 Vincent Square, SW1,
calonged@icron.co.uk

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, Too much is being made, surely, of the fact that the monopoly, held by satellite television on a... areas of sports coverage effective... us to pay to view. The BBC's 24-hour news service on cable... I am expected to pay for this, if I am to my licence fee. What is the chance?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
49 South Molton Street, but not

Girl power

From Mr Martin Offer

Sir, Those who are dismayed by the current advertising trend showing men humiliated by women (report and article, November 12) may wish to reflect on your report (November 10) that the Spice Girls' notion of girl power was invented by their male manager.

Given the large proportion of men in advertising, the blame for such aggressive sexism may not necessarily lie with the opposite gender.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN OFFER,
4 Lion Road,
Nymtomb, Pagham, West Sussex,
November 12.

Give and take

From Dr Max Prola

Sir, Your Diary report today that the Kirov opera and ballet company has arrived in London on a fundraising tour seems to be the direct opposite of "taking coals to Newcastle".

Is there a word or phrase to describe the futile act of asking for assistance from those who themselves seek it?

Sincerely,
MAX PROLA,
The Croft, Ditchfield Lane,
High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire,
jw4dial@pipex.com
November 10.

مکتبہ ذکا من لاهور

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning opened the Salter's Homeless City Foyer, Smithfield, London EC4, and was received by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Alderman Richard Nicholson and Mr John Kurth (Deputy Mayor, Salter's City Foyer).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the Foyer, meeting residents and staff. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh subsequently visited the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, where they were received by the Rector (the Reverend Dr Martin Dudley) and met representatives from the Corporation of London, the Worshipful Company of Salter's, the Salter's Housing Association and Centropoint.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness afterwards drove to Tower Pier and, having been received by the Resident Governor of Her Majesty's Tower of London (Major General Geoffrey Field) and Captain Gordon Dickson (Port of London Authority Harbour Master, Upper District), embarked in the Royal Barge, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, and subsequently embarked in *HMV Britannia* in the Pool of London to hold a Farewell Luncheon for Service Chiefs.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a Reception, Windsor Castle, this evening to mark the completion of the restoration work at which the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Prince Edward and the Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Lawrence RN, were present. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, King George's Fund for Sailors, this evening attended a Dinner in *HMV Britannia* in the Pool of London.

Weekend royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Edinburgh, as Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, will hold a dinner on board *HMV Britannia*, Pool of London, at 7.30 for the founder charter members of the Duke of Edinburgh Award's Charter for Business.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward will attend the 21st anniversary gala performance by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Palace Theatre, at 7.00.

Princess Margaret will attend Stars of the Night, a gala of dance at Her Majesty's Theatre, to mark the amalgamation of the Beneth Institute and the Royal Academy of Dancing at 7.25.

The Baroness Farnborough of Ribblesdale (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning on the departure of the President of the Republic of Yemen and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of the Queen.

The Lord Wilton (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this evening on the arrival of the King and Queen of Norway and welcomed their Majesties on behalf of the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Helen David Engineering, the Postmen's Office, Leighton Road, Kentish Town, London NW5.

Her Royal Highness, President, the Rural Housing Trust, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at Royal Veterinary College, University of London, Royal College Street, London NW1.

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, afterwards visited Links of London, Jermyn Street, London SW1, and Ghel Limited, the Chapel, Kensal Road, London W10.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 14: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince of Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the Touch of Turban Ball held at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, in aid of the Society and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen (Councillor Mrs Margaret Pirquhart).

Elizabeth College, Guernsey

Mr David Tooe, Director of the Vienne International School, is Principal of Elizabeth College, Guernsey from September 1998 on the retirement of Mr J.H.F. Doullin.

Winchester College

"The Farewell to Dick Griffin" takes place in School at 7.30pm on Friday, December 5. All donations and purchase of tickets to the Valedictory Address: Telephone 01252 41815 during working hours. *Noli hoc praeferre!*

Appointment

Mr David Herbert Perry-Davey, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court.

Service dinners

HAC
Field Marshal Lord Inge was the principal guest at the annual dinner of II Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company held last night at Armoury House, Major N.J.I. Haigh, Squadron Commander, presided. Officer Cadet E.H. Davies also spoke.

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiments
General Sir John Wilsey, Colonel of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, presided at the annual dinner of the officers' association held last night at the Army and Navy Club. The Bishop of Sherborne and the Commandant of Devon ACF were the guests of the regiment.

Army Cadet Force Association
General Sir Michael Walker was the principal guest at the Army Cadet Force Association's annual dinner held last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. General Sir Peter de la Billière, President, was in the chair.

Dinners

Cambridgeshire Lieutenancy
Mr Michael Marshall, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, presided at a dinner held last night at Jesus College, Cambridge, given by the Deputy Lieutenants and neighbouring Lord-Lieutenants to mark the 70th birthday of Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

Auchmaries
Mr David Jacobs was the principal guest at the annual ladies night dinner of the Auchmaries held last night at the Cafe Royal, Commodore A.D. Barrett, president, was in the chair.

Minerva Society
Mr John P. Weston, Chairman and Managing Director of British Aerospace Defence, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Minerva Society held last night at RAF Henlow, by permission of the Commandant RAFSEW. Air Commodore G. Jones, chairman of the society, presided. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison and Flight Lieutenant A. McClelland, winner of the Minerva Prize, were among those present.

Cordwainers' Company
Dr Dominic Hibbert and Mr Christopher Heaps, Master of the Curriers' Company, were the guests of honour at a dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at the Law Society, Mr Paddy Skinner, Master, presided. Mr Richard Brown also spoke. During the dinner, the Master presented the annual awards for the best insured soldier and best recruit to the Officers' Commanding, C (City of London Fusiliers) Company, The London Regiment.

Latest will

Albert Cheney Westwood, of Dedham, Colchester, left estate valued at £2,698,792 net.

THE ARTS

Dreams, debts and the director

Stroking his greying beard, Francis Coppola says: "What doesn't kill you, only makes you stronger." The line, in fact, is Nietzsche's, but Coppola has good reason for making it his own. At 49, and with 17 films to his name, he has experienced quite as much failure and misfortune as success.

After the early glory of *The Godfather* and its Oscar-laden sequel, he embarked on the ambitious *Apocalypse Now*, which became a flop for profligacy and miscalculation. Hard on its heels, with dreams of single-handedly revolutionising the film business, he established his own studio, Zoetrope, only to see it sink along with his cherished musical *One From the Heart*.

Left with personal debts of more than \$20 million, he has, since that time, worked as a director-for-hire on a string of movies, among them *The Cotton Club*, *The Outsiders* and *Gardens of Stone*, which have, for the most part, found neither critical nor commercial favour. Some, like the wondrous *Rumble Fish* for example, undoubtedly deserve better, but even Coppola himself dismisses his one outstanding commercial success of the period, *Peggy Sue Got Married*, as "something of a cliché".

He has, however, at long last bounced back to both form and favour with *Tucker*, a surprisingly upbeat fable of American life which has won considerable praise and attracted large audiences in the United States and which opens this week in London.

High Sheriffs

The following have been nominated for High Sheriff:

WALES
Clwyd - Colonel H.M.E. Cadogan, Rufford, D.E. Williams, St Asaph, Denbighshire, P.H. Russell, Overton-on-Des, Wrexham.

Dyfed - J.S. Allen-Milnehouse, Angle, near Pembroke; J.M.G. Andrews, Talilar, Llandovery; D.G. Jones, Llangwyllog, Aberystwyth.

Gwent - R.L. Dean, Tredegar; G. Caerleon; Mrs J.C. Johnson, Llanidloes, near Aberystwyth; Bridgend - H.H. Hooper, Monmouth.

Gwynedd - Professor E. Sunderland, Bangor; W.D.I. Edwards, Amwlch, Anglesey; G.W. Hughes, Arthog.

Mid Glamorgan - A.R. Lewis, Llantrisant; D.H. Thomas, Bridgend; W.H. Joseph, Laleston, Bridgend.

Powys - J.T.K. Trevor, Welshpool; J.G. Colman-Parkes, Knighton; W.N. Legge-Bourke, Glanusk Park, Crickhowell.

South Glamorgan - D.M. Jones, Cowbridge; Mrs M. Watkins, Penarth; M.C. Edderhouse, Cardiff.

West Glamorgan - R.H. Lloyd-Griffiths, Port Eynon, Gower, Swansea; A.D. Morris, Murion, Swansea; H.A. Seane, Sketty, Swansea.

Dorset Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Dorset:

Mr Robert Donald Baxter, Sherborne; Mrs Joanna Mary Earle, Sherborne; Mr David John Fox, Christchurch; Captain Michael Fulford-Dobson, RN, Cerne Abbey; Mrs Patricia Ann Hyman, Wimborne; Mrs Elizabeth Jane Jaggard, Wimborne; Mr David John Harry, Dorchester; Mrs Pamela Dorothy Maud Seaton, Dorchester; Mr Anthony Graham Yeaman, Wimborne.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: William Pitt the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham, Prime Minister 1766-61 and 1766-68, London, 1708; Sir William Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, 1738; Erwin Rommel, Commander of the German Afrika Corps in the Second World War, Heidenheim, 1891; Aneurin Bevan, statesman, Tredegar, 1897; Sir Sachverell Sitwell, writer, Scarborough, 1897.

DEATHS: Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Regensburg, Germany, 1630; Christoph Gluck, composer, Vienna, 1787; George Romney, portrait painter, Kendal, Cumbria, 1802; William Murdoch, inventor, 1800; Tzu-Hsi, daughter of the Emperor of China, Peking, 1908; Lionel Barrymore, actor, Van Nuys, California, 1954; Margaret Mead, anthropologist, New York, 1978.

The *SS St Paul* became the first ship to receive radio messages, transmitted from the Needles wireless station off the Isle of Wight, 1894.

Miller Reese of New York patented an electrical hearing aid, 1901.

The Queen Elizabeth made her final voyage, 1966.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Francis Danby, painter, near Wexford, 1793; John Bright, anti-Corn Laws campaigner, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1811; Paul Hindemith, composer, Hanau, Germany, 1895; Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, London, 1896.

DEATHS: King Henry III, reigned 1216-72, London, 1272; Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; James Ferguson, astronomer, London, 1776; John Walter, founder of *The Times*, Teddington, Middlesex, 1812; Louis Riel, leader of the Métis insurrection in Canada, executed, Regina, Saskatchewan, 1885; George Alfred Henry, war correspondent and writer of stories for boys, Weymouth, Dorset, 1902; Charles Moore, writer, Tours, 1952; Tyrone Power, actor, Madrid, 1958; Clark Gable, actor, Hollywood, 1960; William Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State 1922-32, Dublin, 1965.

Jack Sheppard, highwayman, was executed at Tyburn, London, 1724.

The Soviet Union launched *Venus II*, an unmanned spacecraft, that successfully landed on Venus, 1965.

Hamilton Hume, the explorer, discovered the Murray River, the longest in Australia, 1824.

Luncheon

Lord-Lieutenant of Kent
The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent and Lady Kingsdown attended a luncheon held yesterday in Canterbury at the Grosvenor Hotel, as guests of the Deputy Lieutenants. Countess Mountbatten of Burma presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain C.J. Andrews
and **Miss F.A. Simpson**
The engagement is announced between Captain Charles Andrews, Scots Guards, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony J. Andrews, of Mont de Marstrat, France, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bob Simpson, of Halmstad, Kent.

Mr D.J. Gallimore
and **Miss M. Olyanna**
The engagement is announced between Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Gallimore, of Stewick, Buckinghamshire, and Miss Olyanna, of Fukushima, Japan.

Mr V.H. Jaques
and **Miss J.M. Hamilton-Russell**
The engagement is announced between Victor, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Jaques, of Hampton, London, and Julia, daughter of Colonel and Mrs James Hamilton-Russell, of Dudmaston, Shropshire.

Mr J.R. Kirkwood
and **Miss S.L. Blair**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr John Watson, of Brighton, and the late Mrs Watson, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A. David, of Pitlochry, Perthshire.

Mr A.A. Rear
and **Miss A.A. Ardley**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Rear, of East Oakley, Hampshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burras, of Colchester, Cheshire.

Mr J.J. Hall
and **Miss J.K. FitzHugh**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Hall, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel FitzHugh.

Lieutenant D. Harding, RN
and **Miss E.B. FitzGibbon**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs J.J. Harding, of Glasgow, and Eleanor Bridget, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gibson FitzGibbon, of West Kilbride, Ayrshire.

Mr C.E.G. Treherne
and **Miss R.E.A. Gatti**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Treherne, of Wiltshire, and Rosella, daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Gatti, of Milan, Italy.

Mr J.P. Watson
and **Miss J.A. David**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr John Watson, of Brighton, and the late Mrs Watson, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A. David, of Pitlochry, Perthshire.

University news

Oxford
New College
Scholarships and Exhibitions 1997-98

To Scholarship:
Biochemistry: Angela J. Wright, Donham Market Sixth Form Centre
Biological Sciences: Eleanor Fairbrother, Dauntsey's School, Devon
Chemistry: Jennifer L. Lunn, Millfield; Timothy J. Brunner, St. Mary's School, Tunbridge Wells; Jonathan C. Burley, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne; Christopher P. Shipley, Driffield School.

Engineering Science: Mark A. Capps, Kimbolton School; John Emberton, Eton College; Nathan V. Piper, Beaufort School, Gloucestershire
EEM: Eleanor M. Mack, Millfield School.

English Language & Literature: Finlay MacDougall, Shrewsbury School; Jeremy A. Noel-Tod, Dereham Sixth Form Centre; Susanah F. Price, North London Collegiate School, Edgware.

Fine Arts: Timothy A. Machin, Thomas Alleyne's School, Esher; Amy C. Street, Chipping Chalk School.
Mathematics: Julius A. Rose, Barton Peverell College, Eastleigh.

Modern Languages: Rosalind P. J. Brett, Persa School for Girls; Andrea C. Cockram, Bolton School (Girls' Division).
Philosophy & Modern Languages: Jane E. Harris, Goodolphin & Laymer School.

Physical Sciences: Jonathan C. Davies, Magdalen College School, Oxford; Marie L. Von Gliniski, St. Adolph's Gymnasium, Germany.
Mathematics: Iavor I. Lubomirov, Borlough Community College, Loughborough.
Modern Languages: Kerry A. Salter, Barrow-in-Furness Sixth Form College.
Physics: Peter J. Blythe, Dinnington Comprehensive School; Robert S. Smith, Bryn Jeffries, Roade School, Northampton.

ON THIS DAY

November 15, 1988

Simon Banner interviewed Francis Coppola, maker of *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now*, whose latest film, *Tucker*, had restored his fortunes after the collapse of his studio

Subtitled *The Man and His Dream*, the film tells the story of Preston Tucker (played by Jeff Bridges), an American car-maker of the 1940s who set out to produce "the car of tomorrow" and, in so doing, break the monopoly of the automobile giants of Detroit.

The *Tucker* Torpedo, as the car was dubbed, featured such innovations as a centre headlight, disc brakes, aerodynamic styling and fuel injection. Yet despite taking over an abandoned military plant outside Chicago and raising around \$20 million from small investors, Preston Tucker only made 50 of his revolutionary vehicles before his company foundered amid charges of fraud (of which he was subsequently acquitted).

Comparisons between Tucker and Coppola, and in particular his experience with his own doomed enterprise, the Zoetrope studios, seem inescapable. Like the hero of his film, Coppola planned to break the power of the ruling giants of his particular industry with the use of revolutionary technology. Like Tucker, some say, he was also fearfully under-capitalised and over-ambitious.

Coppola himself raises such interpretations by commenting that "pretty much every film" tells you a lot about the person who made it.

"Certainly I was sure our little Zoetrope was going to work, just like Tucker was sure his car was going to work, but what people are inclined to overlook is that when I first selected the Tucker story so many years ago, I didn't know that I was going to lose my studio. In fact, it's more a case of my life reflecting my movies rather than my movies reflecting my life. When I was making *Gardens of Stone* my son died in an accident on the very same day as I was shooting a scene about someone losing a son. I found that very scary."

Gardens of Stone was one of the movies Coppola made in his plane as a Hollywood hired gun, pretty much shooting whatever the studio bosses asked him to, and working hard to pay off Zoetrope's enormous debts. Against the advice of many in the industry he refused to declare himself bankrupt.

"I had a choice," he says. "I owned all my movies, which is a pretty unusual thing, and my own house, and if I'd gone bankrupt I'd have lost both. I knew that I'd got so angry seeing *Apocalypse Now* on television thinking that I was to own it, so I made the decision to try and pay everything back. It took me seven years and it was very hard work, but I still feel relatively young and robust."

His debts behind him, he is free to imagine ambitious films once again.



Francis Coppola: "My life reflects my movies"

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9822
FAX: 0171 481 9313

And in Christ you also - once you had heard the message of the truth, the good news of your salvation, and had believed it in him you were stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13

BIRTHS

BOYLE - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Jane (née Hobbs) and Colin, a daughter, Zeta, a sister for Karina.

COLLARD - On November 4th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Penny (née Kinch) and Paul, a son, James Christopher Ambrose.

LINSEY - On November 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Lindsey (née Jones) and Matthew, a son, David.

MAUNDER - Due 15th November, but arrived 17th September, in respect to get on with life, to Lindsey (née Brandom) and Christopher, a daughter, Clare Darcy.

MOORE - On November 7th, to Janet (née Peters) and Stephen, a son, Edward Jack, a brother for Alexander.

NEWLAND - On November 9th, to Harriet (née Leighton), to Suzanne (née Owen) and Warren, a beautiful daughter, Susan Corrie.

OLIVER - On November 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzanne (née Owen) and Warren, a beautiful daughter, Susan Corrie.

OLIVER - On November 10th 1997, to Margaret (née Lupinacci) and David, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth.

BIRTHS
PREICE - On November 3rd, to Ann (née Beckwith) and James, a son, Barnaby James Preice, a brother for Daisy and Katherine.

SANDERSON - Sophie (née Bywater) and Mark are delighted to announce the birth of a daughter, Isabella, born on 5th November 1997.

SMITH - On 13th November 1997 in Miami, to Michael and Karen (née Castle), a son, Daniel Michael, a brother for Laura Elizabeth.

STACHOWITZ HAMILTON - On November 4th 1997, to Jennifer (née Wilson) and Nicholas, a daughter, Isabelle Marie Jane.

THEHAMS - To Sally (née Ogden) and Johnny on 8th November, a son, Giles Brandom, a brother for Harriet.

WILSON - Due 15th November, but arrived 17th September, in respect to get on with life, to Lindsey (née Brandom) and Christopher, a daughter, Clare Darcy.

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NEWLAND - On November 9th, to Harriet (née Leighton), to Suzanne (née Owen) and Warren, a beautiful daughter, Susan Corrie.

OLIVER - On November 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzanne (née Owen) and Warren, a beautiful daughter, Susan Corrie.

OLIVER - On November 10th 1997, to Margaret (née Lupinacci) and David, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth.

DEATHS
BOYD - Ann (née Savill), 70, died peacefully at home on Wednesday 12th November. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Chichester, on Friday 21st November at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations to the Red Cross, c/o A & W Goddard, Kent Road, Fleet, Hampshire. All enquiries: (01252) 614611.

BUNT-WELLS - Nancy on November 13th aged 86. Beloved wife of the late B.W. mother of William, stepmother of Jane and Monica. Funeral Service at 2.30 pm on Saturday November 22nd. Enquiries to Richard T. Adams, Funeral Director on (01725) 614611.

STACHOWITZ HAMILTON - On November 4th 1997, to Jennifer (née Wilson) and Nicholas, a daughter, Isabelle Marie Jane.

THEHAMS - To Sally (née Ogden) and Johnny on 8th November, a son, Giles Brandom, a brother for Harriet.

WILSON - Due 15th November, but arrived 17th September, in respect to get on with life, to Lindsey (née Brandom) and Christopher, a daughter, Clare Darcy.

MOORE - On November 7th, to Janet (née Peters) and Stephen, a son, Edward Jack, a brother for Alexander.

NEWLAND - On November 9th, to Harriet (née Leighton), to Suzanne (née Owen) and Warren, a beautiful daughter, Susan Corrie.

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Forthcoming marriages

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 1997

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JIMMY ROBERTS

Lieutenant-Colonel James Roberts, LVO, MBE, MC, mountaineer, died in Nepal on November 1 aged 81. He was born on September 21, 1916.

Though he was a distinguished soldier, Jimmy Roberts was better known as a mountain explorer, one of the greats of the golden age of Himalayan exploration and latterly the presiding guru of Nepalese mountaineering. The ethos of climbing was important to him, and he once complained that modern Himalayan mountaineering had been devalued to the status of league football by the sheer number of expeditions and their accompanying publicity and publicity.

In Kathmandu it is said that if it was not he who made the first ascent of any particular peak, he had probably been the first to notice it, first explore the route to it and make the first proper reconnaissance of its slopes. But adventurous holiday-makers especially owe a great debt to "Colonel Jimmy" for his invention and development of Himalayan trekking as the popular vacation it has become.

Born in India, James Owen Merion Roberts joined the 1st Gurkha Rifles in 1937 via the King's School, Canterbury,

and Sandhurst. He wrote: "I joined the Indian Army partly because I was unqualified for any more intellectual employment, but mainly because I wanted to climb in the Himalayas — not just one expedition but a whole lifetime of mountaineering and exploration. It worked."

Roberts' first major expedition, in 1938, was to formidable Masherbrum (25,600ft) in the Karakorum Range, at a time when no summit over 26,000ft had ever been reached. The small party included experienced climbers, but the altitude and terrible weather took their toll and Roberts recalled with horror dressing the blackened finger and toe stumps of two of his companions, severely frostbitten on the unsuccessful summit bid. Nothing daunted, he wrote to Bill Tilman, leader of the current Everest attempt, offering his services for the next try. Not surprisingly, Tilman spared the offer. Later, however, to his intense delight, he was invited to join a 1940 Everest attempt together with a Captain John Hunt.

The war intervened and soldiering became a serious business. Swapping mountains for the jungle, Roberts volunteered for the Gurkha Parachute Battalion and commanded the first operational drop of the Burma War, winning an

MC. Two years later he fought in the desperate battle of Sangshak and was mentioned in dispatches. Throughout the war, his climbing gear accompanied him in a tin trunk labelled "A Company Sports Kit" and was occasionally put to good use, notably in Kulu in 1941 where he made the first ascent of White Sail (21,148ft).

After the war, Roberts returned to action against communist insurgents in Malaya as second in command of the 1st/2nd Gurkhas. Mentioned in dispatches again, he was appointed MBE in 1955. He was meanwhile active among the big mountains, locating and attempting the huge Saser Kangri in the Karakorum in 1946-47. But Nepal, still virtually unknown, had just opened up, and in 1950 an invitation to explore the Annapurna massif with the abrasive Tilman would hardly be ignored. The massif was circumspectly and Annapurna IV was attempted, but the two men disliked each other from the start. Complaining of cold feet, Roberts was rebuffed with the memorable comment "All our feet are frozen, but not all of us while about it".

Disappointed to be chosen only as a reserve climber for the ultimately successful 1953 Everest expedition, Roberts made notable low-key explorations in East Nepal and in



the mysterious Dhaulagiri Himal, climbing several peaks. In 1957 he led a strong team to Machhapuchhare, the classic Fish-Tail Mountain above Pokhara, discovering the legendary Annapurna Sanctuary during a reconnaissance. His lead climbers, Noyce and Cox, retreated from immediately below the summit, considering the final double cornice too dangerous to attempt: the mountain is virgin still, and for religious reasons is now off-limits.

In 1958 Roberts was appointed military attaché in Kathmandu. Although by now at the hub of the Nepalese mountain scene, this was a busy assignment. He managed, however, to lead a successful expedition to Annapurna II — the last unclimbed 26,000ft — besides escorting the Queen around Pokhara in 1961, for which he was appointed MVO (later converted to LVO).

Determined to remain in Nepal, Roberts retired from the Army in 1962. He had long felt that whereas high altitude climbing itself was masochism, a Himalayan approach march was a relaxing and rewarding experience, potentially a magnificent holiday. With excellent contacts in official circles and among the sherpa people he knew so well, he founded his firm, Mountain Travel, in 1964, essentially to escort hardy hikers across the ultimate mountains while providing employment for local people. For several years it was the only trekking agency in Nepal, but such was its success that today some 350 agencies cater for thousands each year.

After the hugely successful 1963 American Everest expedition, which Roberts had joined as logistics organiser, he was invited by Norman Dyhrenfurth to join an attempt on

Everest's virgin south west face. But Roberts was already assembling his own team with the same objective. Thus the 1971 international expedition eventually reached Everest with 23 members from 13 countries, led jointly by Dyhrenfurth and Roberts.

Despite prolonged bad weather and rampant sickness, they pushed to within 1,500ft of the top. Roberts had little time for inflated egos or histrionics, and unfortunately several of the team proved to be incompatible prima donnas. The British and American members recalled how Pierre Mazeaud, a fine alpinist and aspirant French sports minister, outraged that he had been asked to carry loads for "Anglo-Saxons and Japanese", declared "it is not me but France that is insulted", and continued to disparage Roberts personally over dinner in the base camp mess tent. Clicking his fingers, Roberts summoned two burly sherpas and spoke calmly in Nepali. Promptly they ejected Mazeaud into the freezing night.

Disillusioned by the expedition, Roberts wrote: "My main regret was the loss of my childish personal belief that mountaineers of a certain calibre and reputation must also be gentlemen."

He was already in considerable pain from damaged hips,

and this was the end of his active mountaineering. The flourishing business was absorbed into the Tiger Tops group in 1975, but Roberts retained a keen interest in mountaineering affairs. Aware that expensive permits and complex bureaucracy were inhibiting small, frugal expeditions climbing in his own style, he would advise that a basic permit to trek to a viewpoint — rather than an expedition to a mountain — might cover a multitude of sins. Eventually he persuaded the Tourist Ministry to release a list of 18 peaks of up to 22,000ft that could be attempted with a minimum formality.

Seriously stricken by arthritis and other afflictions, Roberts became a semi-cripple. He retired to his holding outside Pokhara, living a spartan, reclusive life, breeding rare pheasants and suffering in silence. Always a took great delight when old and new friends managed to visit, especially if they came armed with a bottle of malt whisky, when his acerbic wit and forthright opinions would enliven conversations well into the night. There, in the shadow of the Annapurna snows, he faded gradually away, and it is fitting that his ashes were scattered in the Seti Khola which flows down from Machhapuchhare.

MARGARET POTTER

Margaret Potter, artist and illustrator, died on October 24 aged 81. She was born on June 12, 1916.

ILLUSTRATORS who confine their focus to the objects and history of the world around them win few accolades. Margaret Potter, who worked as an illustrator of children's books, was no exception. But her work, always undertaken alongside her husband Alexander ("Alick"), was in its own way remarkable.

Born a Whittington, and said to be a descendant of the famous Lord Mayor, Margaret Potter was the daughter of a farmer and was brought up in a Tudor farmhouse, Perry Oaks Farm, among fields where the runways and terminals of Heathrow Airport are now. In the 1920s she used to drive herself to school in a pony and trap, along what is now the A4.

She showed an early taste for drawing and, after leaving school, studied at the Ealing School of Art and began to work as a commercial artist. This proved unfulfilling, so she changed tack, studying domestic science and setting out as a travelling adviser for Radiation Cookers (recipe-testing and demonstration cooking were accompanied by on-the-spot sketches).

With her marriage to Alick Potter in 1939, however, her life gained a new dimension. He was an architect, but also a conscientious objector, and they spent much of the war working hard as wardens of a hostel for Irish labourers in Wales.

Through a chance contact with Noel Carrington, who was editing the Puffin Picture Books for Allen Lane, they agreed to prepare *A History of the Countryside* for the series. Published in 1944, it was chosen as one of the 50 best



books of the year by the National Book League, and was followed in 1945 by *The Building of London*.

There was an element of collaboration in everything the couple did, but Margaret was the prime mover in preparing artwork, and in these two 32-page books she adopted a near-cartoon style of boldly drawn, pop-eyed figures among carefully delineated buildings, with bright lithographic inks used for the alternating colour spreads.

But when the Potters turned their attention to the big, cut-out "Puffin Building Books" by L.A. Dovey — three volumes for *The Cotswold Villages* (1947) and for *A Half-Timbered Village* (1951) — their gift for elegant, accurate drawing and a more subdued colouring asserted itself.

This was classy work, and it is seen at its finest in two books that John Murray published: *Houses* (1948) and *Interiors* (1957). These large-

format historical summaries were characterised by succinct but informative texts, which treated the young reader as an intelligent person, and by a sequence of architectural drawings of great elegance and charm.

As in the Puffin books, the Potters' evident love of the traditional English countryside and its buildings was tinged with fear about how easily and swiftly they could be compromised or lost. *Houses* was included in a display at the Festival of Britain in 1951, exemplifying the best of British publishing.

In the third edition of *Houses*, in 1973, the authors recorded their original travels "in a tandem along the roads of the mid-west", discovering old crafts still in existence ("central heating was scarcely a dream") and comparing this to modern methods coming into play.

The Potters' hopes for a

great new plan for London, or for responsible building, may have been largely frustrated, but during the years after these books were published they continued as a team pursuing architectural excellence.

For eight years Alick Potter worked in the Sudan, setting up a school of architecture, with Margaret as warden for women students, and in 1965 they moved to Belfast where Alick had been appointed to a new post as Professor of Architecture.

These wanderings were described in their last book, aptly named *Everything is Possible* (1984) and beautifully decorated with Margaret's drawings. It was written during their retirement to a house in Wales which they designed themselves, and it was here that Margaret suffered a stroke that was to cloud her final years.

She is survived by her husband. There were no children.

LORD CRAWSHAW

Lord Crawshaw, landowner and trustee of Henry Smith's Charity, died on November 7 aged 64. He was born on March 25, 1933.

LORD CRAWSHAW was a man who always had a winning smile and an engaging sense of humour. Neither of these attributes was in any way diminished by his having to live for 45 years in a wheelchair. He was only 19, just six years after succeeding to his father's title, when he broke his back.

The occasion was the Bullingdon point-to-point races at which young Oxford undergraduates, often overhauled by generous parents, set a fast and furious pace, then as now. Crawshaw, an Old Etonian, was riding for the Cup of the Oxford University Drag Hunt, of which he was joint master, when he looked to have had a comparatively simple fall but found himself unable to get up without help.

His world appeared to have crashed. But that proved not to be the case — though his fall in hospital did prevent him from taking a degree (he had been reading jurisprudence at Christ Church when the accident happened).

His sporting interests continued, and he began to devote much of his life to charities — often small and local charities that miss out in major distributions. At the time of his death he was involved in more than thirty of them.

He was also a trustee of Henry Smith's Charity, a position he had filled for 41 years. He scarcely ever missed a meeting, arriving at King's Cross by train, making his way to the taxi rank in his wheelchair and setting off to the trust offices. His special



interest was the distribution of funds to groups such as the disabled, the mentally ill, and to hospital projects and the social services. This year alone the charity has distributed £20 million.

Henry Smith, a salter — he used to salt meat in the City of London — died in 1620 leaving two bequests each of £1,000. One was to provide an income for his desperately poor relations; the other to provide for those who had suffered from Barbary pirates.

These bequests grew to embrace an 80-acre market garden in what is now the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and developed from there into a fine and fashionable housing estate. A few years ago the estate was

inter-parliamentary delegation.

For 21 years Lord Crawshaw was chairman of the Quorn Hunt, which has arguably the best hunting country in England. He used to attend meets of the hunt in his wheelchair but tiring of that after a few years he got back in the saddle. This became possible when he found a very strong Australian saddle in a shop in Sussex and he mounted bicycle handlebars on the front of it to give him security on the horse.

This caused something of a sensation when he appeared with the Quorn in full regalia of top hat and scarlet coat. But he had the benefit of being carried by one or other of two wonderfully caring horses, one Domino, a piebald cob which came from a gypsy owner in Ireland originally, and the other a show-off grey called Prince.

In 1981 Crawshaw accompanied some ten couple of hounds from the Quorn plus hunt followers and farmers to County Hall, Leicester, to plead with the county council not to ban the hunt from their land. The visit was accompanied by a petition signed by 12,000 people.

From 1954 to 1958 he was treasurer of the Loughborough Conservative Association. He made the occasional speech in the House of Lords, often to do with the welfare of the disabled.

He was the 4th Baron; the 1st Baron was ennobled by W.E. Gladstone for services to the Liberal Party cause in Lancashire. William Michael Clifton Brooks, as he was before he succeeded his father at the age of 13, never married. He is survived by his two brothers and a sister. The title is now inherited by the elder of his brothers, David Gerald Brooks, who was born in 1934.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JAMES ROBERTS, LVO, MBE, MC, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, the Executors of the will of the late James Roberts, LVO, MBE, MC, deceased, do hereby certify that the said will has been proved to the satisfaction of the High Court of Justice, and that the said will has been admitted to probate by the High Court of Justice.

AMC

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC and AMC Bank Limited announce that with effect from 6th November 1997 until further notice AMC's base rate for current borrowers will be 7.25% and the AMC variable rate of interest will be 2.15%.

For further details of AMC's facilities please contact AMC, AMC House, Cherry Street, Andover SP10 1DD. Tel: 01264 334747.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person claiming to be an interested party in the ESTATE of the late JAMES ROBERTS, LVO, MBE, MC, deceased, should immediately inform the undersigned of the claim and the basis of the claim, and the undersigned will be pleased to consider the claim and to advise the claimant of the result of the proceedings.

TRUSTEE ACTS

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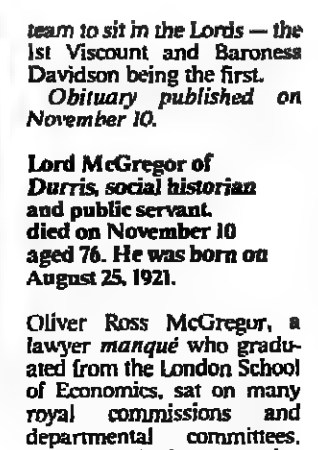
PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, the Executors of the will of the late JAMES ROBERTS, LVO, MBE, MC, deceased, do hereby certify that the said will has been proved to the satisfaction of the High Court of Justice, and that the said will has been admitted to probate by the High Court of Justice.

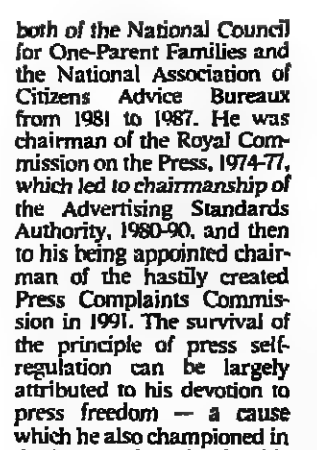
MILESTONES



Baroness Lewellyn-Davies, PC, Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords, 1974-79, died on November 6 aged 82. She was born on July 16, 1915.



Lord McGreggor of Durris, social historian and public servant, died on November 10 aged 76. He was born on August 25, 1921.



Oliver Ross McGreggor, a lawyer and public servant, died on November 10 aged 76. He was born on August 25, 1921.



Both of the National Council for Parent Families and the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux from 1981 to 1987. He was chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, 1974-77, which led to chairmanship of the Advertising Standards Authority, 1980-90, and then to his being appointed chairman of the hastily created Press Complaints Commission in 1991. The survival of the principle of press self-regulation can be largely attributed to his devotion to press freedom — a cause which he also championed in the House of Lords after his arrival there in 1978. He moved from the Labour to the Social Democrat benches in 1981.

Obituary published on November 12.

Major-General G. P. B. ("Pip") Roberts, CB, DSO and two Bars, MC, died on his 91st birthday. He was born on November 5, 1906.

Pip Roberts, a career soldier, was given command of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in January 1942, and his first tank battle came at the end of May, in the opening phase of the Battle of Gazala. Roberts handled his regiment skilfully, but the tank losses

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1997	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
			00	+			00	+
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
529	402	Miller Beer	522	21	48	13.8		
530	385	Miller (HF)	469	23	43	11.7		
531	380	Guinness	469	23	43	11.7		
540	380	Stout (HF)	469	23	43	11.7		
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THE TIMES Portfolio

£1,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight shares in the Portfolio listed below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions. Enter 10% as 10 (the symbol % means no changes). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain/Loss
1	Dewint Hedges Property	Property	
2	Hydro-Elect	Electricity	
3	ASDA Group	Retail Food	
4	MR Group	Super Serv	
5	Hewlett-Packard	IT & Comm	
6	Ashted	IT & Comm	
7	Hampson & Co	Engineering	
8	Liberty Int'l	Print & Pub	
9	Polystyrene	Engineering	
10	UNO	Retail Food	
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Portfolio

in Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND

+44

Claims required for +44 pts

between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily points

to match the weekly dividend

published in the Times on Friday

between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

Two winners shared the prize

£1,000 each, between 9.30am-3pm

on Friday

between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

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HOT SEAT 28
Dick Brown keeps mum about global vision at C&W

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 1997

Detectives link missing £49m to Moyne account



Moyne account signatory

By JON ASHWORTH
DETECTIVES probing the disappearance of £49 million from Truist, a Swedish investment company, have linked the money to an account in London under the control of Lord Moyne, the Guinness family member and former merchant banker.

The money was wired to an account with Barclays Bank on which Lord Moyne, the former Jonathan Guinness, and his business associate, Lindsay Smallbone, are signatories. It was subsequently dispersed among at least ten offshore accounts in destinations including America, Switzerland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

Swedish police, working with the

Serious Fraud Office, visited Barclays on Thursday. Investigators are believed to have found evidence of payments to Jonathan Posen, a convicted fraudster who shared offices in Berkeley Square with Lord Moyne's company, Guinness Management.

Police in Stockholm have arrested two men — Peter Mattsson, a business associate of Lord Moyne, and Thomas Jisander — in their ongoing investigation into the case. Mr Mattsson, nicknamed "Mr Unlimited" on account of his lavish spending habits, was a director, with Lord Moyne, of Guinness Securities, which was struck off the UK companies register in July.

Mr Mattsson was at one time a

shareholder in Effex International, a currency trader shut down in 1995 with losses of £9 million. He was introduced to Lord Moyne by Michael Wynne-Parker, active in British polo circles, who, with the peer, was a director of Access to Justice, a London company shut down by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in September.

Access to Justice dispensed free advice to convicted criminals, and rented out office suites in Central London. The DTI ordered its winding up in the public interest, amid allegations that the company, falsely presenting itself as a charity, displayed irregularities in its accounts.

In its petition, the DTI said directors

of Access had received "unjustified financial benefits" from the company. Monies were paid to Intromco, a public relations company that included Lord Moyne and Mr Wynne-Parker among its directors.

The Truist case threatens a further embarrassment to Lord Moyne, 67, who could not be reached for comment yesterday. Staff at Guinness Management, on the sixth floor of the former Saatchi & Saatchi headquarters in Berkeley Square, said Mr Smallbone was "very busy", and would not be commenting.

Lord Moyne paid £20 million in June for a 32 per cent stake in Truist. In a statement issued a week ago, he said: "Recent public disclo-

sures and personal experiences have destroyed my confidence and trust in the Swedish parties who were associated with me personally. That association is now terminated."

Lord Moyne has long cut a colourful figure on the British scene. Educated at Eton and Oxford, he worked as a journalist with Reuters from 1953-56, and later joined the board of Leopold Joseph, the merchant bank. He was a non-executive director of Guinness from 1961 to 1988.

A former chairman of the Monday Club, the right-wing pressure group, he once stood for Parliament on a ticket that razor blades be placed in the cells of convicted murderers.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4761.8	(+30.8)
FTSE All-Share	2251.34	(+12.91)
Nikkei	15082.52	(-344.75)
Dow Jones	7501.02	(+13.26)
S&P Composite	920.40	(+3.74)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
10-year Bond	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
3-month T-bill	6.56%	(6.56%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.5930*	(1.5975)
London	1.5951	(1.5983)
DM	2.5338	(2.5025)
FF	9.2555	(9.7597)
Sfr	2.3773	(2.3787)
Yen	215.40	(213.84)
E index	104.1	(103.8)

DOLLAR

London	1.7325*	(1.7280)
DM	1.7300*	(1.7220)
Sfr	1.4040*	(1.4012)
Yen	126.79*	(125.75)
S index	106.1	(105.6)

TOKYO CLOSE

Yen 100	126.73
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 16-day (Feb)	\$19.90	(N/A)
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GOLD

London close	\$302.55	(\$307.88)
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* denotes midday trading price

Fiscal code to stop sharp policy swings

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JANET BUSH

THE TREASURY is set to introduce a Fiscal Responsibility Code, imposing the same kind of formal scrutiny on government management of fiscal policy as the Bank of England faces in its conduct of monetary policy.

The code, which the Treasury hopes ultimately to enshrine in legislation, will form the centre-piece of the Government's Pre-Budget Report on November 25. The report is also expected to spell out Treasury thinking on issues such as tax, welfare reform and competitiveness.

The Treasury said yesterday that the aim of the code was to provide greater transparency in the making of economic policy and to enhance credibility with the City.

Under the terms of the code, the Government will be obliged to formally set medium-term PSBR targets, and after these only through a formal public announcement. Treasury performance in meeting these targets and respecting the code will be monitored by the Treasury Select Committee. The code will also place the issue of Treasury forecasts and other economic information on a statutory footing. But it is likely to stop short of the New Zealand's Fiscal Responsibility Act, widely seen as the

model for legislation of this kind, which also makes provision to restrict tax and spending plans.

The idea of introducing a code received cautious support from the City and business. Stephen Davies, economic re-

Gold slump sends rand to record low

THE price of gold slumped to \$229.25 yesterday, its lowest level for more than 12 years, sending South African shares into a tail-spin and the rand to a record low (Janet Bush writes). The rand set in on Wednesday when the Bundesbank announced that it had been lending out part of its gold reserves for about a year. There are also worries that rich South East Asians will no longer invest because of stock market losses.

search executive at the Institute of Directors, said: "We would support this sort of move. In the late 1980s, the Treasury changed the target with amazing regularity in an attempt to make the actual figures hit the target."

But Simon Briscoe, research director at Nikko Europe, said: "There is a danger the

Government will put itself in position where it has so many rules they conflict and place economic management in a straitjacket."

The code also found little support from left-wing Labour MPs concerned that it would further restrict the Government's room for manoeuvre in economic policy.

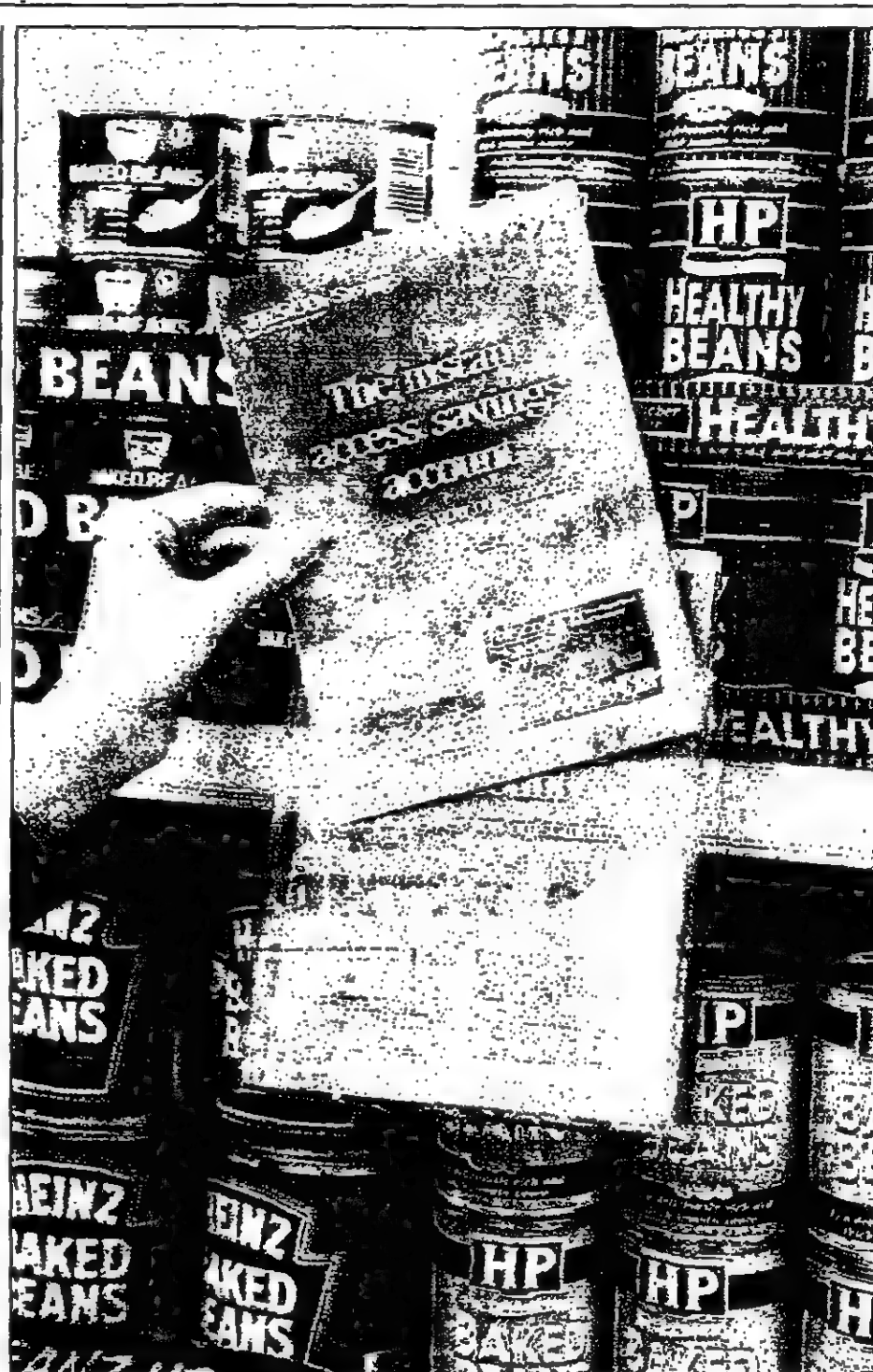
The Government recently restated its commitment to meeting the "golden rule" — that the Government will borrow only to meet investment commitments over the course of the economic cycle.

However, if it decides to join a single currency, it would need to alter its target to reflect the even tougher requirements of the EU stability pact.

Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, yesterday cheered European markets by suggesting that European central bankers wanted European interest rates to converge at the lower end of the current range of rates of those countries likely to sign up for the single currency.

□ The pace of manufacturing growth slowed in the four months to October as export orders slipped, raising hopes that interest rates might not need to rise again.

Commentary, page 29



The Tesco bank was overwhelmed as 150,000 people tried to open accounts in four weeks

Tesco bank pays out to customers for delays

By GAVIN LAMSDEN

TESCO Personal Finance, the bank set up by the supermarket group four months ago, has been forced to offer compensation payments to thousands of angry customers hit by administrative problems.

Letters offering £100 are being sent to depositors who are still suffering long delays in the opening of their savings accounts and who have been unable to contact the bank through its helpline.

The compensation offer comes on top of a promise to backdate interest which the bank made three weeks ago when problems with its service first appeared. The bank admits it was overwhelmed by the 150,000 applications it received for its Instant Savings Account in the first four weeks alone. The account pays 6.5 per cent annual gross interest and offers 1,000 points on the Tesco Clubcard.

Since then Tesco Personal Finance has built a new call centre in Bristol and trebled the number of staff dealing with inquiries. However, reports suggest that customers are still experiencing problems getting through.

All costs of the new bank are shared equally between Tesco and the Royal Bank of Scotland which holds a 50 per cent stake in the banking venture. Both companies apologised unreservedly for the poor service. Derek Sach, chief executive of Tesco Personal Finance, claimed yesterday that only 1 per cent of customers had suffered seriously.

Saver anger, page 64

Milken threat

Michael Milken, the former junk bond king, could go back to prison for allegedly violating his probation agreement after an investigation into business dealings after his early release from a ten-year sentence. Page 28

Hotels plan

Plans by Inter-Continental Hotels, formerly owned by Grand Metropolitan, for a \$1 billion (£588 million) stock market flotation in New York continue in spite of speculation of an offer from a rival hotel group, Japan's Saison, the current owners, paid \$2 billion for the company at the top of the market in 1988. Page 29

Canny Canary

Canary Wharf, once condemned as a white elephant, is beginning to fulfil its potential as one of London's premier developments as its new owners prepare for a £550 million bond issue. Page 30

Eastern halves RJB contract

By JASON NISSE AND MARK COURT

RJB MINING, which owns most of the British coal industry, yesterday signed its first new contract with the electricity generators — selling four million tonnes a year to Eastern Electricity at between 115p and 117p a gigajoule.

This is half the amount of coal supplied to Eastern under the existing contract, which ends in April, at a price more than 20 per cent less than RJB is now paid.

In addition, the five-year deal can be terminated after three years and industry sources said Eastern had given firm commitments to take only three million tonnes a

year, with the rest sold under option. City analysts now fear RJB may strike an even less advantageous deal with National Power and PowerGen, the two largest generators.

National Power buys nearly 13 million tonnes a year from RJB under the existing contract, but is likely to cut this to seven million, paying about 110p per gigajoule. PowerGen is expected to buy substantially less than half the coal it purchases currently from RJB.

RJB shares rose 9 1/2 p to 157 1/2 in relief that a deal had been struck.

Commentary, page 29

Andersen's £22m ends De Lorean legal fight

By MARTIN FLETCHER

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, the accountant, has paid the Government £22 million in an out-of-court settlement to end a 12-year legal battle over the collapse of the De Lorean sports car project in 1992.

Neither side would reveal the terms of the deal, but it is understood that the Government accepted damages of about £22 million. This is far short of the £200 million it originally sought for Arthur Andersen's alleged negligence as De Lorean's auditor.

The Government has spent an estimated £15 million in legal fees pursuing Andersen.

The settlement avoids a long trial in New York next year that could have cost the taxpayer a further £25 million.

In 1976, tempted by the prospect of more than 2,000 jobs being created in Northern Ireland, the Labour government of the day gave approval for John De Lorean's new factory outside Belfast. Successive governments invested nearly £80 million in the high-risk company, which began manufacturing its gull-winged car in 1981, but collapsed the following year.

Mr De Lorean and Colin Chapman, former chairman

of Lotus Cars, were subsequently accused of fraud. The Commons Public Accounts Committee called the project "one of the gravest cases of the misuse of public resources".

In 1985 the Conservative government sued Arthur Andersen for failing to alert ministers to discrepancies found during its audits of the company's accounts, and, for 15 years until last February, the company was barred from doing any government work.

Alex Ingram, the Northern Ireland Economy Minister, said the settlement was "a fair disposal of the action".

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Christmas arrived this week, bringing steamy dishes, alluring gifts, and the occasional sack of coal. The Christmas tree swayed under the weight of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, while someone ran off with the remains of BZW, sold for a snip at £100 million. Roger Levitt perched on top, laughing his head off.

Rolls-Royce endured further twists and turns down the road to an uncertain future. No sooner had Mayflower announced that it would not be bidding for Vickers, which owns Rolls, than Volkswagen appeared on the scene. BMW said that it remains interested. The "other" Rolls-Royce, the aero engines bit, received a

cheque for £200 million from the Government to fund engine development.

The on-off bidding for Rolls presented an all-too-familiar scenario to a weary Martin Taylor, at Barclays, which managed to flog the European equities and advisory business of BZW to Credit Suisse First Boston for a derisory £100 million. Barclays could end up with a book loss of up to £400 million on the deal.

Bitter-sweet cheer for BT, which admitted defeat in the tussle for MCI, but was left with a handsome profit all the same. WorldCom clinched victory with a revised \$37 billion offer — the biggest takeover in history — giving BT a \$2.25 billion pre-tax profit on

its MCI stake. BT wins an additional \$465 million break-off fee from MCI, but has yet to come up with a cogent international strategy.

Chris Evans, the carrot-topped disc jockey, tried his hand at high City finance, conjuring up a rival £85 million bid for Virgin Radio. Virgin has accepted an £87 million approach from Capital Radio, subject to regulatory clearance, but said that it would give serious consideration to Evans's approach.

Swedish television crews descended on London to cover the saga of Lord Moyne, the former Jonathan Guinness, whose exploits have captivated the Swedish nation. The colourful peer, who was, until recently, keen

to publicise his new book, *Requiem for a Family Business*, has said nothing since issuing a statement a week ago, claiming that he had been let down by associates.

At the High Court, the extraordinarily drawn-out tort of the Department of Trade and Industry rolled on. Alan Jones, QC, who defended Kevin Maxwell at his 1995 trial, and last week got Octav Botnar off the hook, showed little mercy in castigating the DTI over its attempts to bring Roger Levitt back from New York. The cigar-toting Levitt, who began his career as a trainee with Marks & Spencer (of all firms), is set to launch a substantial damages claim against the DTI over its

botched attempt to seek his extradition.

Abbey National became the first lender to lift its loan rate in response to the previous week's base rate rise, spelling higher monthly payments for 1.6 million borrowers. Others are expected to follow.

Partners in Coopers & Lybrand attended a series of pep talks about the intended merger with Price Waterhouse — and were left in no doubt about who was calling the shots. Somewhat happier were depositors in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, who were told to expect a further payout next summer. Better than a lump of coal.

JON ASHWORTH

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Instant Transfer	7.0% 7.0% 7.0%
Windsor Investment Direct	6.75% 6.75% 6.85%

Source: Money Mail 15.11.97. *Excludes 10% p.a. bonus.

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Cable chief keeps mum about his global vision



CV: DICK BROWN

Born: 1947, New Jersey
BSc Ohio University, Ohio
President and chief executive
Illinois Bell
Executive vice-president
Sprint Corporation
President and chief executive
H&R Block Inc, Kansas City
June 1996: Chief executive
Cable & Wireless

interactive leading-edge telecom service" that offers video on demand, home shopping and banking. His showcases are the new services from C&W Communications and Hong Kong Telecom, which will be on line next year. Talks with big entertain-

ment and software players such as News International, owner of *The Times*, Microsoft, Oracle, Universal Studios and Walt Disney are ever-present.

Brown says: "Global is the key to this industry. The highest projected traffic over the next 20 years is from trans-Pacific to West Coast seaboard. China is the big challenge and we have three vehicles we can use to expand. The Chinese are excellent negotiators and we have been there for 12 years. That is a long relationship — we are not neophytes."

Brown appears to know where he wants to go, but he is obviously not giving the game away. The map on the wall in his office is crossed by red lines that mark out the C&W network. There is a big gap over the US.

If Brown were to go for an alliance, it is likely that it would be an American company such as AT&T, SBC Pacific or even Bell Atlantic on the East Coast.

His 28 years in the US industry have not been in vain. Brown is also talking to Global One, a venture between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint US.

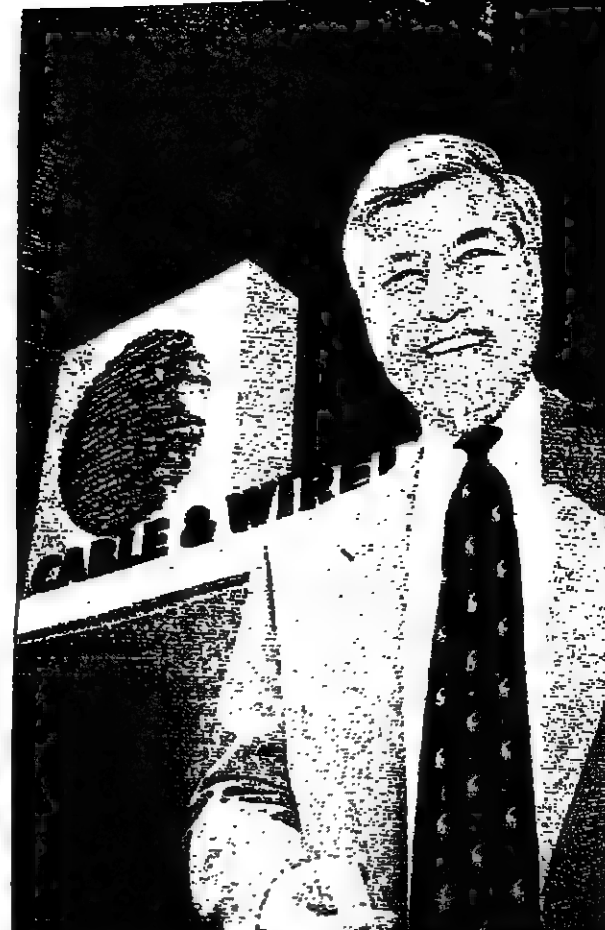
return to C&W, although any bid would have to be signed. At BT, Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, have much respect for Brown and his achievements. Insiders say they admire his plump pay package too. Brown, who was head-hunted for the AT&T job, could be paid £2 million, tied into a long-term bonus plan, this year. The deal handcuffs him to the company for three years.

Perhaps the most significant changes of all have been those that Brown has implemented inside C&W — for so long run as a cosy, establishment outpost of the British Empire and often ribbed as an old colonial investment trust. The culture shift has been dramatic, leaving some staff so disgruntled that they call him the axeman. A quarter of the top 100 managers have been sacked and a further 50 have either been promoted or given new jobs.

Brown says: "I know what people say but, to protect them and shareholders, you have to be tough. Where I have moved people to new jobs they are blossoming. How to promote people and bring them on is what I care about most — it's what I worry about when I wake up in the middle of the night and can't sleep."

His mother has much to answer for. This weekend she is likely to receive a call from Panama, where Brown will be visiting a recent acquisition.

MARGARETA PAGANO



Dick Brown could make £2 million this year

Milken could face return to prison

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL MILKEN, the former junk bond king, faces the possibility of being sent back to prison following an investigation into business dealings he conducted after his early release from a ten-year sentence.

He was convicted in 1990 for insider trading and paid a \$1 billion (£600 million) fine. However, he spent only two years in prison after agreeing never again to become involved in the securities industry.

Mr Milken, 51, has recently acted as an advisor to Time Warner, MCI Communications (which was bought this week by WorldCom for \$37 billion in the world's biggest takeover) and The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He has also worked with Ron Perelman, the corporate raider.

Mr Milken's lawyers said



Milken: advisory posts

that the advisory posts did not violate his probation agreement. However, he has been pursued by federal investigators since his three-year probation period was extended last year.

Mr Milken is now being accused of obstruction of justice in connection with the investigation, according to a letter filed in a federal Man-

hattan court. The US Attorney's office in New York is thought to be preparing new moves against Mr Milken that could result in a return to prison for probation violations or for the alleged obstruction.

Lawyers for Mr Milken deny the obstruction of justice charges.

Reid Figel, an assistant US attorney, is seeking access to reports by probation officers on Mr Milken's business activities, which are likely to contain details of the nature of his dealings.

Mr Milken is allowed to advise on strategy but he cannot play any role in stock transactions such as mergers and acquisitions. Under the probation agreement he may not work with "any broker, dealer, investment advisor, investment company or municipal securities dealer".

During the Eighties Mr Milken ran the junk bond desk of Drexel Burnham, the investment bank.

Rolls wins £150m deals on engines

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero engine maker, yesterday announced orders worth more than £180 million for its Trent 800 engines.

Delta Air Lines has ordered its order for Boeing 777 aircraft powered by the Rolls-Royce engines.

The airline, the first US operator to choose the Trent 800 for the Boeing 777, is to exercise its options for ten aircraft, firming up a provisional order made earlier this year. It also has options to buy a further 50 Boeing 777s, giving Rolls-Royce potential business worth about £900 million.

Deliveries of the ten firm orders are set to begin in August 1999 and will continue through to December 2000.

Earlier this week, Rolls-Royce said that it had won a firm order for the engines for the first ten of 39 aircraft for American Airlines.

Liverpool Victoria problems continue

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE record-keeping problems at Liverpool Victoria, Britain's biggest friendly society, are taking longer to resolve than originally hoped, and will prevent the insurer from selling any new business before December.

Liverpool Victoria was forced to suspend its 270 sales staff a month ago, but initially hoped to have them back to work after a couple of weeks. David Cheeseman, corporate strategy director, said the society is aiming to have its salesforce back by the beginning of next month.

Although it is set to lose six weeks' sales, Liverpool Victoria has continued to pay its salespeople, including their normal level of commission earnings. Mr Cheeseman said that losing sales staff to other insurers "must be a worry".

The group, which manages £4 billion, mostly on behalf of many thousands of poorer savers, has embarked on a far-reaching attempt to re-invent

itself in the last three years. Roy Hurley, chief executive, has admitted his management team was stretched "almost to breaking point" as it reorganised its original network of 1,400 premium collecting agents, moved head office from London to Bourne-mouth, made a £180 million takeover of Frizzell, the insurance brokers, launched a general insurance operation and a range of new products and tried to cope with tough new industry regulations.

Liverpool Victoria suspended its salesforce when it became apparent that its records of staff references and training were inadequate, and it could not be confident that they would satisfy regulatory demands. Ernst & Young has been assessing the extent of the problems. The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator, has been kept informed but it is not clear whether Liverpool Victoria is likely to be fined or disciplined.

Drinks firms merger 'to get US backing'

AMERICA'S Federal Trade Commission is expected to give the green light to the proposed £24 billion merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan next week, subject to the disposal of the Dewar's whisky brand. The ruling, which effectively mirrors that of the European Commission, will pave the way for Guinness and GrandMet to auction the Dewar's brand worldwide to the highest bidder.

Shareholders of Guinness and GrandMet are due to vote on the merger proposals on November 26, with shares in Diageo, the merged company, expected to begin trading on December 17. Approval is expected to allow a capital repayment of 70p a share for investors. Dewar's is the eighth bestselling global brand of whisky with sales of about 2.7 million cases a year. Allied Domeq, which owns the Ballantine's and Teacher's brands, and Seagram of Canada are potential buyers.

Standard Life expectant

STANDARD LIFE, the biggest pensions group in Europe, confirmed last night that it was awaiting approval from the Bank of England for a licence to launch its own bank. The mutual life insurer has more than four million policyholders and assets of more than £57 billion and is looking to launch a savings and deposit account early next year followed by mortgages and accounts for businesses and charities. Jim Spawart, head of the banking section, pledged to beat the interest rates paid by supermarket banks.

Lynx races ahead

LYNX HOLDINGS, the computer software, systems and services group, lifted pre-tax profits to £9.8 million from £6.9 million in the year to September 30, helped by a strong contribution from acquisitions. Operating profits rose to £10.24 million from £7 million, with £2.3 million from businesses that were acquired during the year. Earnings per share rose more modestly from 5.36p to 6.83p. A final dividend of 1.5p a share lifts the total to 2p from 1.75p for the previous 12 months.

Cookson disposal

COOKSON GROUP, the British industrial materials group, is raising \$21 million (about £12.4 million) with the sale of its swimming pool products distribution business to SCP Pool Corp. The business belongs to Cookson's Pacific Industries subsidiary in America, which is part of Cookson's plastics division. The business had sales of about £34 million in 1996. Net assets were £12 million at the last year-end. SCP is the largest independent distributor of swimming pool products in the United States.

Plasmec takeover talks

SHARES in Plasmec, the troubled electronic components manufacturer, which have fallen from 223p to 154½p in the past year, rose 2p to 156½p yesterday after the company said it was in takeover talks with an anonymous third party. The announcement came as Plasmec issued a profits warning, saying that in spite of a good performance at Betaine, one of its subsidiaries, slow sales at its other operations would result in profits falling to meet market expectations. The company added that it was confident that its performance would recover.

Banner plans demerger

BANNER HOMES, the building group, yesterday said it would demerge its commercial property business into a separate company called Ascot Commercial, to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market. Shareholders will receive one ordinary share in Ascot for every Banner share. The company reported a rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 from £796,000 to £4.9 million. Turnover rose from £16 million to £25 million, and earnings per share from 4p to 23.5p. An interim dividend of 1p (0.4p) will be paid on January 6.

Mortgage lenders delay rise

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

MAJOR lenders are holding off from mortgage rate rises, increasing speculation that some are expecting another base rate rise next month and would prefer not to raise rates twice in quick succession.

Alliance & Leicester yesterday said that it would not be increasing its 8.45 per cent standard variable rate until next year. A&L said that it wished to spare its customers extra expense in December when household budgets were already stretched.

So far, only Abbey National and Northern Rock have raised their loan rates in response to the latest base rate changes. Abbey increased its rate by a quarter point to 8.70 per cent for loans below £50,000, with effect from December 1.

Hatfield, the biggest lender, will this weekend continue to review its rates, but each day that it delays a change makes it less likely that a rise could become effective by Christmas.

Alliance & Leicester, a bank since April, is aligning itself with the two largest building societies, the Nationwide and the Bradford & Bingley, which have said that they will not alter rates until after Christmas.

Mortgages, page 62

Wallace to go as Mazda turns corner

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN TOKYO

HENRY WALLACE, the first foreigner to head a major Japanese company, stepped down as president of Mazda yesterday after Japan's fifth-largest carmaker announced a return to profit for the first time in five years.

Mr Wallace, a Scot, was seconded from Ford to take the helm last year. He will be replaced by James Miller, an American, also from Ford, who is Mazda vice-president and will return to Britain.

Mazda earned an operating profit of 7.14 billion yen (£33.4 million) in the six months to September 30. The company expects a profit for the full year.



Wallace: returns to Britain

Caradon boosted by Hintz appointment

BY CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Caradon, the Twyford sanitaryware and Miras showers group, soared after the company announced the appointment of Jürgen Hintz as chief executive.

Mr Hintz will succeed Peter Jansen, who has been chief executive since the building products company's formation. Caradon has suffered a checkered past because of a series of ill-judged acquisitions, and in the first six months of the year saw its American windows business fall into loss.

Mr Hintz, a US citizen who was born in Germany, once

worked at Procter & Gamble, the American detergents group, but latterly was chief executive of Carnaud Metalbox and is widely credited for turning round the packaging company. At one time, Caradon owned a 25 per cent stake in Carnaud Metalbox.

Mr Jansen will become non-executive chairman of Caradon upon the retirement of Antony Hichens, the current chairman, at the annual meeting. Two other directors, Peter Hewett and Tim Walker, are also retiring.

Tempus, page 31

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.54	2.36
Austria Sch	21.82	19.98
Belgium F	65.63	58.57
Canada \$	2.512	2.324
Cyprus Cyp	0.904	0.833
Denmark Kr	11.74	10.85
Finland Mk	9.26	8.61
France Fr	10.26	9.50
Germany DM	3.00	2.85
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong S	13.50	12.70
Iceland K	128	108
Ireland P	1.18	1.09
Israel Sh	6.25	5.70
Italy L	3044	2807
Japan Yen	229.53	212.00
Malta	0.682	0.623
Netherlands Gld	3.492	3.198
New Zealand \$	2.86	2.62
Norway Kr	12.58	11.64
Portugal Esc	211.02	200.00
S Africa Rd	8.91	7.95
Spain P	238.25	220.50
Sweden Kr	13.56	12.48
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Taiwan N	354.660	304.782
USA \$	1.708	1.655

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES MERCEDES IN A SPIN

The launch of the new Mercedes A Class, nicknamed the Baby Benz or "elk class", now looks set to join the great commercial disasters of all time. It rivals such legendary own-goals as Persil Power, New Coke, and the Hoover flights promotion...

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Mondrian at the Tate

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PRODUC
RECALL

TESCO



BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Drinks firms merge to get US backing

Standard Life expects

Lyrix races ahead

Cookson disposal

Plasmec takeover

Banner plans demerger

Shareholder democracy can be an elusive concept, as regular attendees at company annual meetings will have realised. An angry individual from the floor may castigate the board for delivering a dire profit performance and a hugely inflated salary bill. The cry will be taken up enthusiastically by others scattered around the hall. Then the chairman will blithely call for a vote on the re-election of directors or acceptance of the report and accounts and it will be carried by a huge majority. The board moves on to a celebratory lunch and the shareholders are generally left to a drink and a few canapés, if they are lucky, before heading home.

The real shareholder power, of course, is not represented by those who choose to sit on gilded chairs in hotel ballrooms, often being subjected to corporate videos and boring recitations. The institutions that own the bulk of corporate Britain prefer to make their views felt in private audience with the companies they back.

But they can be remarkably quiescent when it comes to using the ultimate weapon of democracy, the vote.

Now, in the battle seething around Liberty, the famous Regent Street store, shareholder democracy is being put to an extraordinary test. For two groups of investors are behaving as if they own the company, although they hold less than half

the company between them. Unless the institutional investors, and a scattered list of private individuals, can be motivated into using their votes, they will allow Elizabeth Stewart Liberty and her family together with Brian Myerson to take over the company right under their noses.

Next week the existing board of the company will embark on a hectic round of the institutional investors to try and win their support. They will set about some frantic canvassing of the private shareholders who are not aligned to the formidable Mrs Stewart Liberty's camp. But their chances of raising sufficient votes to combat the combined weight of Mrs SL and Mr Myerson look slim.

There has been much talk of putting formal obligations on institutional investors to use their vote, but Sir Ronnie Hampel and his committee have eschewed that route. It would be good to think that investors in Liberty would not require such prompting to look dubiously on the efforts of Mr Myerson and his new found supporters and decide that they should back the board in this case.

The Stewart Liberties have not, in recent years, been the best guardians of the business that the

family created. Denis Cassidy and his team have plans for redressing the atrocious performance of the group over recent years, and there is little reason to believe that their opponents have anything more constructive to offer. Yet they are endeavouring to use their minority holding to effectively take over the boardroom. And if other investors cannot summon the energy or enthusiasm to vote against them, then they will succeed.

Lack of fiscal flexibility

The Chancellor's promotion of a new Fiscal Responsibility Act is being billed as another building block both of his campaign to promote transparency and accountability in economic policy-making (would that the same values prevailed in the Government's handling of large political donations to the

Labour Party) and of his attempts to convince the City that New Labour has completely excised its reputation as the party of tax and spend.

Looked at less charitably — and there are not enough details thus far to make a completely cogent judgment on the initiative — this could be the coup de grace that finally renders the Treasury powerless in managing the macro-economy. Gordon Brown has already handed control of monetary policy to the Bank of England. Now he seems to be volunteering to emasculate himself on fiscal policy.

This Chancellor campaigned in the election on the basis that he would strive to increase the economy's potential for growth but he has now stripped himself of all the traditional macro-economic tools. This is entirely consistent with New Labour's belief in tweaking and honing on a micro-economic level to improve the working of the econ-

omy as the route to greater performance. But it may not be wise. Seeking to build on the dramatic Thatcherite programme of structural, supply side reform is a worthy goal but some macro-economic flexibility to cope with sudden economic shocks is well worth preserving.

Mr Brown may as well join the single currency now because he appears to be leaving himself no more flexibility than Britain would enjoy when monetary policy is handed over to the European Central Bank and when fiscal policy is conducted within the straitjacket of the German-designed Stability Pact. It is difficult to know for sure, without further fleshing out of the idea, whether the Fiscal Responsibility Act is simply another example of glossy presentation of policy making without much new substance or whether it helps to lock Britain into a parallel path to the euro. If the latter, there are still considerable problems. Hans

Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, says he wants euro interest rates to converge towards the low level prevailing in Germany and its satellites, currently around 3 per cent. But Mr Brown's quasi-independent Bank of England has just increased British rates to 7.25 per cent and many expect them to rise further.

Little warmth in RJB deal

The news that RJB has actually signed a new supply contract with a power generator brought an evident sense of relief to shareholders and supporters of the coal industry. A study of the detail should restore their qualms. Eastern Electricity is buying less than half the coal the generator burned last year at a near 25 per cent discount to the old price. And, compared to National Power and PowerGen, Eastern was in a poor negotiating position. Eastern needed a decent amount of RJB coal because its power stations are not as well adapted to burning coal from abroad as those owned by PowerGen and National Power.

The bigger generators can choose to tell RJB to keep its coal and buy instead from Australia, South Africa or Europe at anything up to 30 per cent less than the price that Eastern is paying. In the end the new contracts with the generators, which start in April, are likely to leave RJB selling half as much as it did under the old contracts at around three quarters of the price. The effect of this will be more pit closures, more redundancies and a likely further collapse in RJB's share price.

Richard Budge still tries to sound optimistic. But might he also be trying to think positive long enough to stave off the harsh decisions about redundancies until after April, when RJB is freed from the old British Coal employment contracts and will have to pay the sacked miners a fraction of the current contractual pay-offs.

De-Loreaned

HAD it not been for an unfortunate involvement with the flashy John De Lorean, Ian Hay Davidson would almost certainly by now have received some titular acknowledgement of his great and good deeds. Now that Arthur Andersen is forcing out £18 million to halt its long-running wrangle with the Government over the expensive De Lorean episode, perhaps the firm's former London senior partner will win his deserts.

Half-year figures boost P&S shares

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the newspaper and convenience store group, shot up 62½p to 857½p after the company announced a 26 per cent increase in profits to £5.91 million for the six months to September 27.

The publishing business increased operating profits by 35 per cent to £4.64 million on revenues up 4 per cent to £31.1 million. The retailing business, One Stop Community Stores, increased operating profits by 27 per cent to £2.02 million on revenue up 23 per cent to £56.1 million. A total of 23 new stores were opened in the half year taking the total to 172.

Charles Brim, chief executive, said that most of the £20 million a year investment in expansion would go on One Stop stores. City analysts now forecast pre-tax profits of around £11.2 million before exceptional costs, mainly redundancy costs, for the full year. Adjusted earnings per share rose 26 per cent to 36.2p. The interim dividend rises to 4.78p (4.25p).

Inter-Continental sticks to float plan despite talk of offer

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PLANS by Inter-Continental Hotels for a flotation are continuing in spite of mounting speculation that the group may attract an offer from a trade buyer.

Industry sources believe that Saison, the group's Japanese owner, has been approached by Marriott, the acquisitive US hotels group. However, a spokeswoman for Inter-Continental said yesterday:

"Nothing has changed. It is still our intention to pursue an IPO [initial public offering] some time next year."

Salomon Brothers, its financial adviser, is thought to be planning to offer around 40 per cent of the group on the New York Stock Exchange, possibly with a secondary listing in London. Salomons is thought to be looking at the possibility of floating just the

operating arm of the business, which could be worth more than \$1 billion (£588 million). Saison acquired Inter-Continental from Grand Metropolitan in 1988 for \$2 billion at the top of the market.

The group has a total of 215 hotels in 76 countries, of which 132 operate under the luxury Inter-Continental brand and 15 trade as midmarket Forum hotels. Only 23 are owned by the group, including three of its four London hotels, the remainder being managed contracts, franchises and marketing partners.

Speculation over a possible trade sale has been heightened by delays to its flotation plans — it was originally to have been floated this year — and the fierce pace of consolidation in the hotel industry.

Paul Dukes, chairman of BDO Hospitality Consulting, said: "There are very few global brands in the luxury hotel segment, so Inter-Continental must, by definition, be a potential target in the current fevered climate for deals. The flotation process has taken a long time and they have doubtless received a lot of inquiries."

Russians accuse City-based banks

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE central bank in Russia yesterday named eight London-based banks which, it said, had failed to carry out their side of securities deals with Russian banks.

The Bank of Russia said it would refrain from doing business with the banks and advised other state financial entities in Moscow to follow suit.

The banks named were Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and the London operations of Chase Manhattan, UBS, Salomon Brothers, JP Morgan, Credit Agricole Indosuez, CSFB and Banque National de Paris. There was no immediate comment from the banks.

The statement was issued in response to speculation that market turmoil had left many Russian banks over-exposed.



Ian Thomson, left, Denis Cassidy and Andrew Garey, the Liberty directors fighting rebels

Threat by Liberty aides

BY PAUL DURMAN

LIBERTY'S entire team of City advisers has threatened to resign if dissident shareholders succeed in replacing the department store company's chairman with two of their own representatives (see Commentary, this page).

Barings, Cazenove, Slougher & May and Shandwick have united with Liberty's five directors in strongly opposing the attempt to unseat Denis Cassidy, the chairman, at a shareholder meeting on December 11. Barclays Bank has

also said that it will reconsider loans it is making to finance Liberty's planned £43 million refurbishment of its landmark West End store.

The Stewart-Liberty family, who own 27 per cent, and Brian Myerson, who controls 17 per cent, want to make Odile Griffith and Mr Myerson directors and co-chairmen. Ian Thomson, managing director, and Andrew Garey, finance director, and Liberty's two non-executive directors intend to oppose this move, and be-

lieve that it would make their positions "almost certainly... untenable". This would trigger the resignation of Barings and the other advisers. Liberty, in a circular to investors, said: "Such destabilisation would be damaging to shareholder value and to the long-term development of your company." The company is speaking to potential buyers in an attempt to produce a better deal for shareholders.

Tempus, page 31

Roofers lift claim on Dome to £3.5m

BY MARK COURT

THE German company that lost the contract to put a fabric roof on the Millennium Dome has increased its compensation claim to £3.5 million.

Koch HighTex had its £7 million contract to cover the dome in a short-lived fabric revoked after Tony Blair ordered that the Dome should provide a "lasting legacy". Instead a £13.9 million contract was given to the American company Birdair to cover the dome in a long-lasting Teflon-coated material.

At the end of last week, Koch HighTex served a writ claiming £1.5 million against New Millennium Experience, the publicly funded company set up to build the dome, for breaching European tendering laws in awarding the new contract.

However, sources at Koch HighTex said that the writ is only a small part of its total claim against New Millennium Experience. The German company is making a separate claim of more than £2 million for the loss of its initial contract to cover materials, planning, indemnity on currency fluctuation, loss of opportunity and loss of profit.

New Millennium Experience declined to comment while the claim was being dealt with.

PRODUCT RECALL

K FOR KIDS
'STRETCH ACROSS BEARS'

These are a row of four small cloth bears designed to stretch across a pram. Each bear is labelled with the word either 'Squeak, Rattle, Crinkle or Jingle Bell'.

Tesco has identified a problem in the manufacture of the above product.

It has been found that a small number of bears may split at the seam and the stuffing may become exposed — this could constitute a choking hazard.

As a precaution this product has been withdrawn from sale.

Customers who have purchased the K for Kids 'Stretch Across Bears' since August 1, 1997 are requested to return them to any Tesco where a full refund will be given.

The manufacturers have now reviewed their procedures and undertaken a full investigation. No other K for Kids products are affected by this withdrawal.

Tesco apologises for the inconvenience this may cause and assures customers of our care and commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality at all times.

Free customer helpline 0800 505555

TESCO

Fresh Fields

THE exotically named Mrs Fields Wicker-Miurin, whose American parents clearly named their offspring after their favourite cookie shop, is paring company with the Stock Exchange. Wicker-Miurin, 39, has been director of finance and strategy at the Tower for three years. She is planning a bit of a breather before deciding what to do next. It is all entirely friendly, I am told — the coming of order-driven trading seemed an opportune moment for a break. With a background in banking and management consultancy, which I will try not to hold against her, I doubt she will lack for offers.

● **HANDELSBLATT**, the normally reliable German newspaper, has reported that VW has bought Rolls-Royce luxury motors off Vickers. Not so, says Vickers. A case of "they think it's all over — and it's not?"

Cash call

I RECEIVED a strange letter from someone called Peter Spira, sent to a reader. Spira is a merchant banker, retired, I assume. He has just finished

his memoirs. My informant worked in the late 1960s at S G Warburg where, as he dimly recalls, Spira was "one of my distant co-workers in a totally different part of the firm".

He was therefore a little surprised to receive the letter, which invites him to send off £20 for a copy of the book — once it is published. "As you can imagine, the expense of a short-run private publication is not inconsiderable," explains Spira. I am unable to contact the man himself, but I feel strangely ambivalent towards his scheme. I admire the ingenuity with which a former merchant banker intends to subsidise a vanity publication, but I wonder at the presumption that many such distant acquaintances will want to read it.

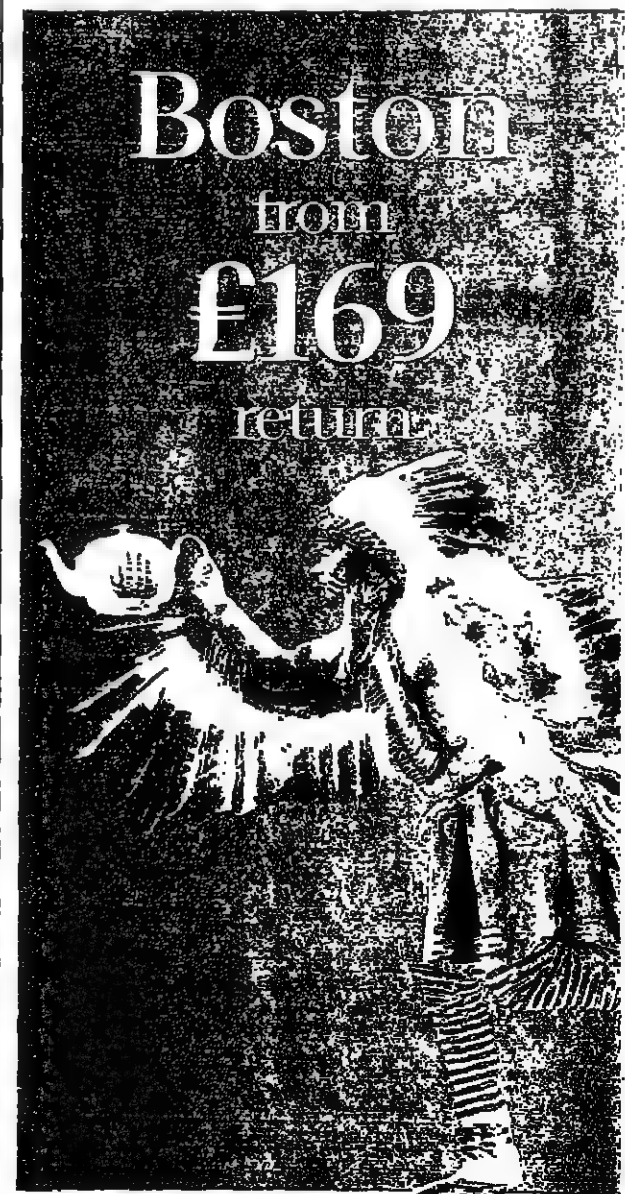
● **THE** lengths some chief executives will go to to promote their companies: a team from Style Holdings, an ATM-quoted menswear retailer, went to a big City institutional shareholder last week. The fund manager, who may have known more than he was letting on, opted to use the stairs. The three-strong Style contingent, led by chief executive



David Gee, took the lift. An hour and a half later they were winched by the fire brigade to an empty floor in the building. Which was locked. They ended up at the top of the building and had to climb down again on a fireman's ladder. And then get on with the presentation.

Doom's day

DOOM is an unpleasantly violent computer game in which you take a shotgun, chainsaw, rocket launcher or whatever to a collection of electronic beasts. I am told it is very popular in the City, played by teams on dealing desks. There is a variant, called Deathmatch, in which you take a shotgun, chainsaw, etc. to your teammates. This is, oddly enough, even more popular. Paul Planagan, a 37-year-old American investment banker, has quit J P Morgan and set up something called Cybernetic Productions to ensure as many people as possible enjoy the game. After Christmas he is planning a City Cyber Challenge, with a league table. The winner will take on New York, Hong Kong and Tokyo over the Internet. I am not sure that he should be encouraged.



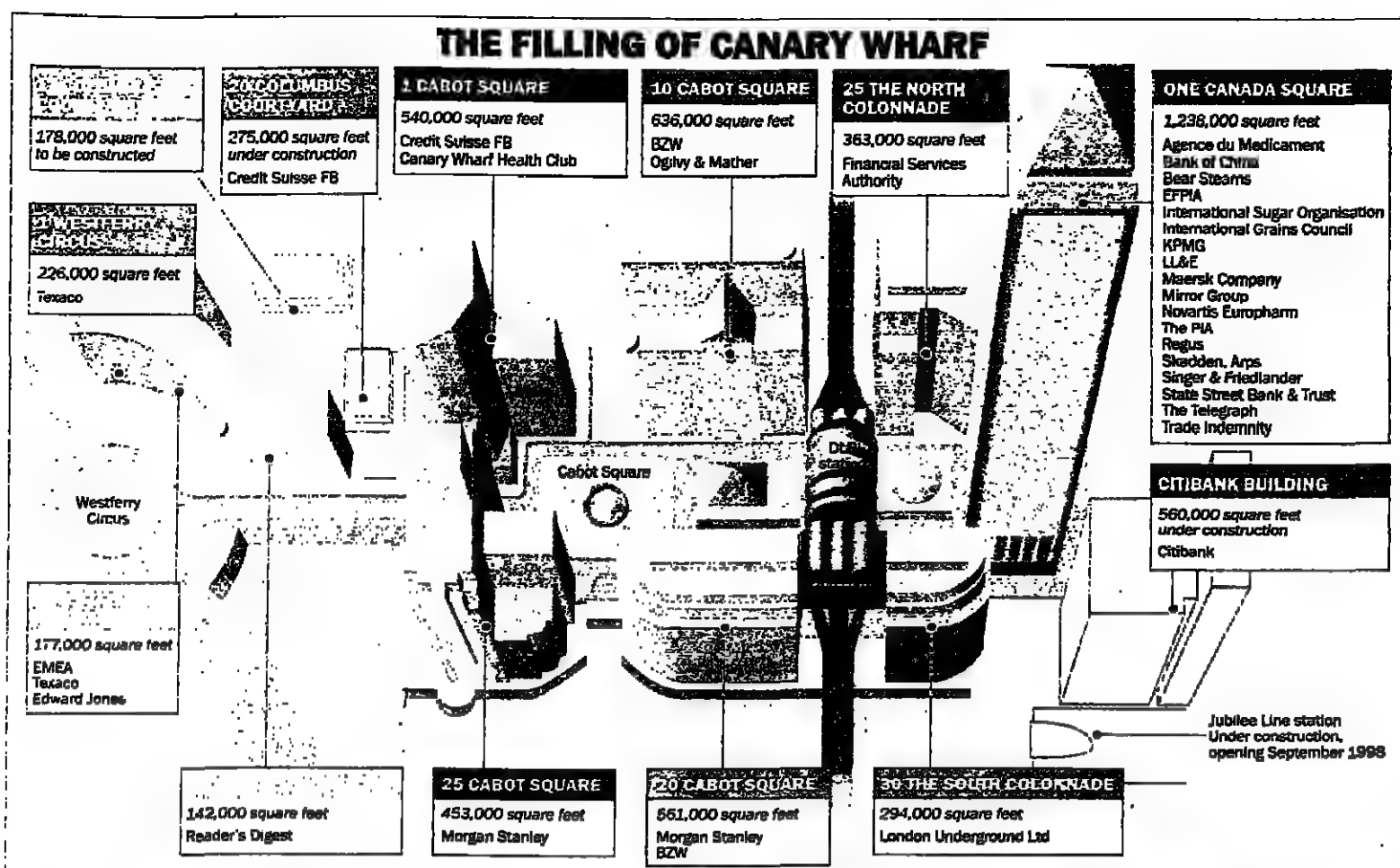
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Martin Waller on how Britain's tallest building is scaling new heights



At last we can sing praises of Canary Wharf

It was, depending on your reading of events, an apotheosis of "cool Britannia", a proud collation of everything stylish and happening in Blair's Britain had arrived. Or it was a chance for the French to look snootily down their noses at us again. Whatever the style points to be won over last week's Anglo-French summit, the decision to hold it on the thirty-eighth floor of Britain's highest building meant there would always be one clear winner.

Now the works of art from the likes of Damien Hirst and David Hockney are back in the government art collection. The furniture has been returned to its respective designers. Even the flowers went to a local old

people's home. The grey carpet is still there, as are the orange walls, but only until the vacant floor has been let and is fitted out for a new occupier.

The free publicity handed to Canary Wharf has been invaluable. But it also suggests that the £1.5 billion downriver development has now described a very British parabola, from public laughing stock through financial failure to established respectability.

It is now more than ten years since foundation work started, and nine years to the month since the familiar pyramid was placed on top of the 800 ft Canary Wharf Tower, proper address One Canada Square. It is also five years since the project went into financial administration. Canary Wharf is now jointly owned by a consortium of investors including Paul Reichmann, its original progenitor, and Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia.

The past year has seen a number of important City tenants either opting for eventual relocation to Canary Wharf or actually arriving there, a move regarded in the Square Mile as banishment to the outer darkness. Within days the prospectus to a £500 million 30-year bond issue will be published.

The issue, arranged by Morgan Stanley, one of the first institutions to plump for the site as a London base, will pay off a £188 million debt owed to the European Investment Bank and some of the £300 million still owed to London Underground as a contribution towards the costs of building the Jubilee Line.

"What we have achieved is that finally all the things that were supposed to come together in 1991 and 1992 are coming together now," says George Iacobescu, chief executive of Canary Wharf Ltd, the management company, who has been with the development from the start. "The project is today 92 per cent let. By the end of the year it's going to be 95 to 96 per cent let, which in real estate terms is fully let."

The decision in September by the Financial Services Authority, the new City super-regulator, to locate all nine of its constituent bodies at Canary Wharf by the end of next year was not universally popular among staff. But it came just a week after Credit Suisse First Boston, the Swiss investment bank, said it would be increasing its office space there by 50 per cent by starting building work on a 275,000 sq ft site next to its existing offices.

BZW, the investment arm of Barclays Bank now sold to Credit Suisse, has been gradually relocating to the site all year. Another huge tenant, Citibank, is building a 560,000 sq ft tower, designed by Sir Norman Foster, at the eastern end of the development. There is another eight million sq ft with outline planning permission. But there is nothing, barring four independent floors of the Tower, ready for immediate occupation.

"The FSA has made a huge difference - it removed the last big building available in Central London," says Mr Iacobescu. "On a pre-let, we probably could provide a building by 1999. At any given time in the last 12 months we have had 10 to 12 parties in the market looking for space."

Rentals in the parts of the Tower still available are at about £33 to £36 per sq ft. That is rather more than existing tenants are paying until their rents are reviewed, but up to £15 cheaper than the equivalent office space in the City. These existing tenants were attracted to the development by sometimes lengthy rent-free periods, but Mr Iacobescu says these will all have dropped out by the year 2000 and all will be paying rent.

"We may do very limited speculative development - at any given time we should have one building available for someone who needs it almost immediately," says Mr Iacobescu. "But the general policy of the company is that we will go for pre-lets."

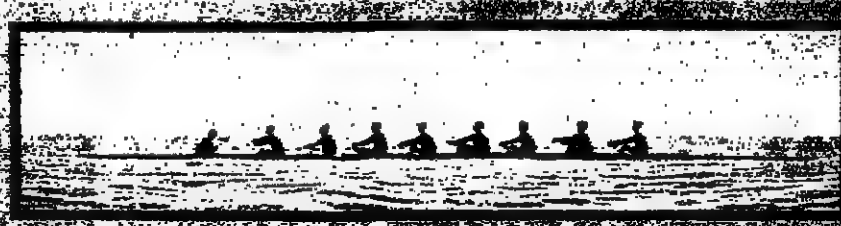
Understandably, commercial confidentiality means no one is saying just who the next pre-let might go to. But the City rumour mill has two or three names in the frame at any given time. Chase Manhattan, another huge American investment bank, has had to deny such stories, although it has admitted looking at the site as a candidate to fill its medium to long-term property needs. Also rumoured to be interested is the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, owner of the Midland.

A further boost will come from the opening late next year of the Jubilee Line extension, which puts Canary Wharf in easy reach of the West End and the South London commuter belt. There has been concern that the station may miss its deadline or open at less than full capacity. This might be a humiliation for London Transport or the contractors building the line, but it holds no fears for the Canary Wharf management. Currently 21,000 people work there, and a third of them take the Docklands Light Railway. At full capacity the Tube line will carry 20,000 people every hour.

It's still, culturally, a hurdle to persuade your staff to go there?

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best

NOON TODAY

11:00 AM
12:00 PM
1:00 PM
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3:00 PM
4:00 PM
5:00 PM
6:00 PM
7:00 PM
8:00 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM
11:00 PM
12:00 AM

Best of South Africa

RIO '98 CARNIVAL

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

NOVEMBER 15 1997

RUGBY HEMISPHERES COLLIDE IN AUTUMN SERIES

England embark on global venture



BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THESE are high days for rugby union. For all the mistakes that the game has made in two years of professionalism, there is a tangible air of excitement at the explosion of international matches about to erupt like a starburst over the five nations during the next four weekends. In Twickenham, Dublin, Lyons and — for the first time since 1954 — Swansea, teams from the two hemispheres come together for the first in a series of global contests.

It is, if you like, a forerunner of the feast that the 1999 World Cup, hosted by Wales, will purvey to Europe and the fact that it pits the best of the north — France and England — against two of the three southern hemisphere powers adds spice to the occasion. But while England meet Australia for the 21st time and France entertain South Africa, the world's best team — New Zealand — will remind Ireland, at Lansdowne Road, of their undiminished quality.



Dallaglio samples the ambience at Twickenham yesterday. Today he will lead England out for the first time when they meet Australia in front of a packed house

Tonga tomorrow in a match designed as a warm-up to playing New Zealand. England have ground to make up against the other leading countries. As the table on page 34 shows, since the 1995 World Cup they have played only three matches against the most successful sides in that tournament and have lost them all — two to France and one to South Africa. Nor does that include the defeat in July by Australia, the side they defeated in the quarter-finals of the last World Cup. They have not played New Zealand since their humiliation in Cape Town two years ago, in the semi-finals. It is no surprise that the All Blacks are on their own in terms of form, and it will be little comfort to the Irish to note that they stand ninth in the table, behind Argentina and only marginally ahead of Italy.

There remain, of course, reservations about the effect of the burgeoning international programme on players, many of whom have struggled to produce their best form after the demands of the previous eight months. To a degree, England's selection has avoided that problem, since Clive Woodward, the coach, has chosen a new generation of players hungry for the international game and, at the same time, thrown down the gauntlet to established players, challenging them to win back a place in the coming months.

Woodward is one of three newcomers to the international coaching business this weekend: he joins Rod Macqueen (Australia) and Nick Mallett (South Africa), each of them keen to establish a playing philosophy that will enthuse the public and create the base for an assault on the World Cup two years from now.

"I have no fear of losing," Woodward said. "What does worry me is not staying true to my philosophy of how the game should be played. The idea of rugby, so far as I'm aware, is to go out and score tries and I want players to recognise that and not go out with a regimented plan. I want players intelligent enough in key positions to take that on board and every player to have a clear understanding of the best options, wherever he is on the field."

The same approach, articulated in a different way, helped the British Isles to defeat South Africa during the summer and enthused rugby lovers throughout Britain and Ireland. But the Lions experience is over; Lawrence Dallaglio, England's new captain, does not seek to recreate what is past. "It's important," he said, "that we put our own stamp on the game."

AUTUMN INTERNATIONALS: Today, England v Australia (Twickenham, 12.30); Ireland v New Zealand (Dublin), France v South Africa (Lyons), Tomorrow: Wales v Tonga (Swansea), Nov. 22: England v New Zealand (Old Trafford), Scotland v Australia (Edinburgh), France v South Africa (Paris), Nov. 29: England v South Africa (Twickenham), Wales v New Zealand (Millers Point), Nov. 30: Ireland v Canada (Dublin), Dec. 6: England v New Zealand (Twickenham), Scotland v South Africa (Edinburgh), Dec. 20: Italy v Ireland (Bologna).

Ireland in awe, page 34
Lawrence Dallaglio, page 35
Woodward's vision, page 35

Belles ring out over Doncaster once more as Rovers lose their way



BY DAVID POWELL

IN THE car park at Doncaster Rovers, Danny Bergara declined a lift to the training ground. The new caretaker-manager did not know the way, so he would take his own car and follow his players. The few who had turned up.

"What I saw yesterday I had never seen in my life," Bergara said. "All that horse mess, huge castles of it. We had to shoo the horses off the pitch."

In the car park at Doncaster Belles, Julie Chipchase presented the other view of football in the town. Doncaster has the best of teams and the worst of teams: Rovers bottom of the Nationwide League, Belles top of the FA Women's Premier League. Despondency and fear at one, exuberance and ambition at the other.

Chipchase is the club's first female manager and has put them back on the trail of former glories. "In the last few seasons we have not won anything," Chipchase, who gained three Women's FA Cup winner's medals and two league championships with Doncaster, said. "I had success as a player and I want it as a manager."

	TOP OF WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE								BOTTOM OF NATIONWIDE LEAGUE						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster Belles	9	7	0	2	32	8	21		Darlington	17	3	7	7	21	16
Everton	7	6	1	0	22	5	19		Hull	17	4	3	10	22	15
Croydon	6	4	1	1	16	1	13		Brighton	17	2	5	10	12	11
Arsenal	6	4	1	1	14	7	13		Doncaster Rovers	17	0	6	11	11	6

Bergara cannot think of success, only scapegoating. Things are worse than he imagined when he arrived a fortnight ago. It is not just the state of the training ground, or that his first-team squad is so thin that he had only ten in for training.

Without a win this season, morale is rock bottom and, as the

club cannot afford a psychologist, Bergara is doing it. "I told the lads: if you think you are in trouble, what about Tony Bullimore in the middle of the Southern Ocean? That guy was so strong, he refused to die. Think about that."

The Belles are swimming towards their first honours since

1994, having undergone a period of change in ground, management and players. It is no more likely that they will lose their league fixture at Liverpool tomorrow than Rovers will win their FA Cup tie at Preston North End today.

There is no gloating at Rovers' plight, though there is some reason

to Belles used to play at Belle Vue, the home of Rovers. "We left suddenly, under a bit of a cloud," Alan Burton, the Belles secretary, said.

According to Burton, Rovers kept postponing Belles matches to protect the pitch and supporters became so disenchanted with the repeated interruptions that they drifted away. "We never got that support back," Burton added.

Any connection between the clubs? "None whatsoever," Burton said, almost triumphantly. The women never watch the men play. Too busy. "The players do not get paid and they all have full-time jobs," Chipchase said.

Bergara, sacked by Rotherham United, is resentful that his experience was not wanted elsewhere: "I am 35 and I should be peaking." Not working on a training ground where the crossbars are bent and there are no nets.

"This is the only club that offered me a job," Bergara added, pleased it did. "Football is like your most beloved woman. As you are getting old, do you say: 'I will leave my wife?' But it will be a woman's world in Doncaster for a while to come."

hell I spilled the abbot

St Benedict

for it is written

Like 43

SQUASH

England defy the odds to reach final

SPORT

Holyfield's he may be Tyson age

BOXING

Boxing: Holyfield's he may be Tyson age

RUGBY LEAGUE

Rugby League: Pauline Kirwan, the former scrum-half, of the re-labeled following the final month of Oldham's season have parted with Ray Auld, a former scrum-half, from the back row.

Clarke test

CYCLING

Peter Ball

Peter Ball: The former England international, who played for the England A team, has been named as the new captain of the England A team.

Arsenal's pathetic gratitude

I don't seem to have occurred to any one of the giddy Arsenal supporters who have littered London's streets with their title talk and shell-shocked grins since their victory over Man Utd last Sunday that what we actually witnessed was the embarrassing humbling of their once great club.

Arsenal may have won the match but their contribution to the game, coupled with the breathless relief of their fans at the final whistle, was in every respect identical to that of any giant-killer delighted to have blackened the eye of a Big Name. I'm no fan of the champions — equally I find the supposed universal loathing of Old Trafford corny and idiotic — but man alive they are a good team. I had supposed Arsenal were too, but on the day they, like every other Premiership side you care to name, were exposed as paste-and-patch pretenders who couldn't hide their breathless surprise at daring to go two up.

Like Wigan suddenly snuffing a march over Leeds you could see the supporters reveling in the absolute cheek of the thing. Sitting in the same room as some disbelieving Gooners I kept saying: "But you're Arsenal. Where's your dignity? You are Arsenal. Why shouldn't you be leading Man Utd? Stop being so bloody grateful."

But it was no good. Their tear-filled eyes and ecstatic grins showed that, these days, they knew their place. That Arsenal no longer truly saw themselves as equals but

DANNY BAKER



as feisty underdogs having a go. They really hadn't dared hope of beating Man Utd. Indeed, their presumptuous bluff having been called, they seemed to surrender the lead out of sheer overawed respect. Both on the pitch and off in the rest of the match, simply became a matter of waiting for the coup de grâce. That Arsenal eventually nicked it should count for nothing. The result itself might call for a brief period of rejoicing but the social order it revealed was a far cry from balcony Highbury days.

Letters that spell gloat

VERY rarely in life do you get the chance to score a swift, total and crushing victory over your critics and detractors but, by gum, I've the opportunity this week. No fewer than 16 separate letters have arrived taking a superior, not to say swanky attitude over the "childish simplicity" of my competition — answered

last week — on how to score two goals in a football match without anyone else touching the ball. Without exception these letters berate me for over-elaboration and explain you simply score the second direct from your second-half kick-off. Ooh, life can be sweet sometimes. Now... will you tell them or shall I?

IT IS soon to be the anniversary of Bob Marley's death and at this time I always get a slight twinge of guilt. This stems from the fact that I sometimes think I may have killed him. Here's what happened.

I was a journalist working on the New Musical Express and in spite of the fact that the NME was peopled with gloriously pale and foppish rock critics, we had a cracking good football team. This was because we were a side full of ringers who wouldn't have known Van Morrison from Van Halen or for that matter Ry Cooder from rye bread. Week in week out we would whack the pants off Dr Feelgood's roadies or Madness.

In short we were invincible and the benchmark for all other music-based sides. Then the Wallers came to town. You have never seen a side like the Wallers. Though they took to the pitch in an impenetrable cloud-bank of herb smoke, they played a lightning-fast brand of one-touch football which jolted us as Puskas and Co must have jolted England back in 1953. We simply couldn't get near them. They were six goals up inside 15 minutes and then made us the same offer that has humiliated park sides down the ages. Would we like a couple of their players? Us! The NME! They spoke not from arrogance but from the genuine wish to make a game of it.

Anyway we did, and though my memory likes to think we had on loan Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer I actually think it was Rita Marley and their coach driver. It was shortly after play had resumed that I was hopelessly bamboozled by Bob Marley playing a quick one-two and came down hard on his foot. You can imagine how I felt. This was Bob Marley. Although his own team-mates recognised it as a genuine challenge for the ball, the one or two home-fide rock-hackers in my own side wanted to string me up. Marley spun around and around holding his foot and, thick though his patois was, the Anglo-Saxonisms were plainly identifiable. After a brief period laying on his back gasping, he joined the game again, limping heavily and eventually dropping back for a spell in goal. I thought of copies of *Burnin'* and *Catch A Fire* in my kit bag that I had brought to be signed and flushed at the gills.

When we decided to call it quits, the NME were down 13-2 and it was all laughs and embracing in the centre circle — us threatening to slaughter their next album in reviews and them, well, then threatening to play us again sometime. I remember Marley chuckling, his limp now gone, doing exaggerated "Keep Away" gestures to me and calling me



Marley, whose footwork bamboozled even the finest opponents

Marley, me and a misplaced tackle

Nobby Stiles. Our hopes of a pie and a pint with the boys vanished as they climbed into their coach and waved goodbye.

A few years later the news broke that Bob Marley was terminally ill resulting from an old football injury tragically neglected. For about six months after receiving the grim bulletin I had some very strange dreams indeed. As it turned out the injury, to one of his toes, was picked up at another match altogether and about a year after we'd met. In fact, many of my

colleagues deny he was even there that night in Hyde Park. But he was and he was great. Almost as great a midfielder as he was a songwriter. Which is, of course, the tragedy. For had he been your average rock 'n' roller tumbling away on the wings, my tackle would have been just right and as I danced away with the ball he would have fallen onto his backside in wonder — possibly swearing off the game for good. And the world would've had a narrow escape.

Before France took their late winning penalty against Scotland this week, a drum roll was played over the PA system. I was so shocked and impressed with this nod toward the tumbler that I phoned everyone I knew in order for them to watch the replays later. On the replays you couldn't hear it. No reference was made to it. Of the three friends watching the match anyway, two of them said I imagined the whole thing and the third was so boozed he questioned there had been a penalty at all. Now, among my set, I've become The Man Who Hears Drum Rolls At Penalties. My only hope is that someone somewhere among my readership will have the courage to break this sinister *omerté* and second my claim. Your anonymity will not be respected and there isn't a reward.

Smokescreens get in your eyes

CONVENIENTLY, new research this week insists that boys who watch motor racing are twice as likely to smoke as those who don't. I'm afraid I'm going to have to say hokey to that one. If you write "Don't do drugs" or "Cut out the graffiti" on the side of a fast car it will not puncture dope sales or polish up council estate lifts one iota. Why is it only negative things that go off the graph when given a few bucks and a campaign push?

I don't smoke. In fact I'm one of those apocryptic types you see frothing and spluttering in unsegregated restaurants. Yet I have long been convinced that there has never been a single person who took up smoking because they saw an advertisement for cigarettes one day. Twenty Silk Cut are not some mysterious secret like masturbation or Jazz FM. Either you can smoke or you can't. You cannot innocently be seduced into the revolting habit by bright lights, fast cars and a snappy strap line.

In my experience, the very first time you attempt to draw upon a fuming butt either you go green like a cartoon and spend the rest of your life attempting to get the taste out of your mouth, or else you declare fresh air to be last year's thing and suddenly realise the scrid pong of Capstan Full Strength is what they were groping towards when they settle on Chanel No 5.

The whole tobacco endorsement thing seems to me a bit of a witch-hunt. The argument is not about an unfair monopoly or about attempts to weaken consumer loyalty to any one pack. It really does seem to say, "If people see a cigarette sponsoring an event they will go and get some cigarettes", and that is a fuzzy old saw to say the least. Sports like darts, snooker and motor racing didn't become tar-trumpets by accident — it's where the stuff belongs, so stop being so precious and get over it. Financing the building and testing of some of the planet's most reckless old burning pigs seems a pretty smooth dovelist indeed.

I actually think many people don't realise what humiliating bondage some quarters of the sport has sold itself into in the desperate scramble to find a PC backer out there. Consider poor old Bristol Rovers. Twice a week at the moment they must take to the field in shirts which tell all and sundry that they are under the commercial yoke of none other

than Bradshaw's Snack Box Ltd. Keggy Keeple's struggling Fulham might suddenly be the high-class outfit he seeks to create if some kindly tobacco baron lifted from them the social sore thumb that is the Plumbers' and General Boiler-makers' Union logo. My own Millwall — yes, we had to get round to The Den sooner or later — have hopped in bed with Mirror Group's Live TV and wear on their proud shirts the words "The Weather in Norwégian". Goud God, I'll take socially unacceptable sponsorship before ironic sponsorship every time.

But as it is the sporting photo opportunities for the tobacco trade and their cancerous hot-cake are daily dwindling, not from genuine reasoning but from some pious sense of cosmopolitan duty. It will serve the world right if the smokey sponsors are driven to use their vast reserves of cash in locations even more eye-catching, dangerous and newsworthy than its natural home of Formula One. Perhaps buying up the rights to some of California's massive annual forest fires or ultimately a huge neon cowboy reclining against the side of Monserrat's famously bad-tempered volcano. In the face of such epic gestures even such finicky pickers of restaurant tables as I might be tempted to have another bash at lighting up.

Seduced by the sound of Schumacher

MICHAEL Schumacher wouldn't be in half the trouble he is if his name weren't quite so enjoyable to say. In one short news report on Tuesday the word "Schumacher" was used an incredible 17 times, expanding to more than 20 in the evening bulletin. Consequently even the most uninterested party comes away from the broadcast maybe still unaware of the story but subconsciously indoctrinated that if they ever met anybody called Schumacher they must instantly flee in the opposite direction. Not, perhaps, a bad lesson after all. □ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 3.30pm.

GOLF: WOMEN HOLD THEIR OWN ON OPENING DAY OF INAUGURAL EUROPEAN CUP

Battle of sexes engenders close rivalry

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PRAIA DEL REY, PORTUGAL

SINCE no man dares to lose to a woman, and no female can bear to be beaten by a man who may be old enough to be her father, the European Cup, which pits the continent's seniors against the women of the professional tour, is an event that can hardly fail. It has many of the ingredients that have caused trouble between the sexes since all that hanky-panky in the Garden of Eden.

The men expected to win because men always do. However, the women felt that they had to prove that their youth, and an overall advantage of just over 400 yards from the tees, would be sufficient. At the end of a pleasant, sunny day warmed by a gentle wind, both sides felt that they had been proved right. After five foursomes matches the score is 24-24 with two days to go. Fewer than one dozen spectators saw Marie Laure de Lorenzi, the women's captain, drive on a sudden 11th hole after José María Cañizares had behaved as if she was a visitor.

No court to the King of Spain and courteously kissed her hand. Fewer still watched Antonio Garrido hit his side's second shot into a pond guarding the green.

Those who were present were workmen from nearby blocks of flats and they could not have cared less, their concrete mixer screeching and whining as Cañizares pitched to the 1st. Finishing rather as they began, Garrido and Cañizares played the last three holes in one over par and deservedly lost by two holes.

It may be some time before Noel Ratcliffe and Maurice Bembridge can live down the fact that they were three up after eight holes and mislaid five of the next ten to lose their match, but Allison Nicholas had something to do with it. She and Trish Johnson birdied two holes, Ratcliffe and Bembridge bogeyed two, and the match was turned upside down.

Karen Lunn and Joanne Morley threatened to sweep Tommy Horton and John

Morgan, the seniors' strongest pairing, into the Atlantic. "This is tougher than I expected," Horton said as he walked up the 7th. Lunn and Morley reached the turn in 32, four under par. No wonder the men were three down. Where Horton and Morgan should have had an edge was in competitive experience. Perhaps this was what enabled them to raise their game when it was needed. Morgan holed from 20 feet on the 14th, Horton on the same distance on the 15th. Morgan then played a delicate pitch to the length of Horton's putter handle for the men to win the 16th as well and level the match. That was how it remained, Morley holeing good putts from four feet on the last two greens.

This was some match. There were eight birdies in all and the overall standard was high. The exception came at the opening hole, when Horton, whom one would suggest was overcome by nerves were it not for the fact that he is too experienced for this to be an excuse, hacked his drive into the gorse bushes that are such a feature of this course.

A few male chauvinists may be surprised that this competition is turning out to be a legitimate contest. The truth is that the men are nearer full strength than the women, who are without Laura Davies and at least four other leading players. Another surprise is how well the men's length advantage has been neutralised by the skilful positioning of the ladies' tees.

Perhaps the greatest surprise is the course, which is a gem. It has a stretch of five holes on which players either aim at the Atlantic, to a green set in a nest of sandhills, or play alongside the ocean.

How long spectators will be able to trample freely over the dunes before it is realised that this causes considerable deterioration, and how long it will be before houses that will pay for this venture start to rise and blight the adjoining landscape, remains to be seen.



Olazábal, who made solid contact with this tee shot, later missed the ball completely

Westwood and Clarke maintain challenge to power of Ozakis

THERE were Ozakis in prominent profusion at the end of the second round of the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters here yesterday, but the burly Anglo-Irish duo of Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke also formed a formidable presence as they enhanced their growing international reputations.

They were in the group of six in second place, on 136, eight under par, alongside Jumbo, the oldest and most distinguished of the Ozaki brothers, and Mark O'Meara, the quietly efficient United States Ryder Cup player.

Joe, the middle Ozaki, was the leader, a single shot ahead of the pack, but he will not be partnering his brother today. He will be playing with Clarke and Yoshinori Mizumaki, whose caddy is Andy Procter, once always seen at the side of Nick Faldo.

Clarke, who returned a second successive 68, played better than he had for months but needed 35 putts on greens that are faster than Augusta's.

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN GOTEBORE, JAPAN

They have been measured at 12.25 on the stimpometer, a speed British greens are only likely to reach if they are lead over. "I had a lot of difficult putts because the breaks were massive," Clarke said.

At the 8th, where he dropped his only shot, he was 30 feet above the hole, after a fier off of the rough, and eased his first putt 20 feet past. "It was like lightning," he said. "I had no shot. You've got to be below the hole."

Westwood, the defending champion, also had a second 68 on another calm, damp day — Mount Fuji is rumoured to be somewhere in the vicinity, but it has been keeping the lowest of low profiles — and is quietly confident. "I'm playing well," he said, "and I know I'm good enough to win any tournament I tee up in. But if the weather stays the same, I think I'll need two rounds better than 68 to win here again."

That might look cocky in cold print, but Westwood is anything but — just a very assured 24-year-old with every reason to have confidence in his game. Today, he plays with Peter McWhinney, of Australia, and José María Olazábal, a Ryder Cup colleague, who suffered acute embarrassment at the 16th, where he had a double-bogey six. Seven under par at the time, Olazábal missed the green with an eight-iron and was on a steep downslope in a grassy hollow below the level of the green. It was a difficult pitch, but the Spaniard missed the ball altogether, as the club passed right underneath it. "I've never done that before in a tournament," he said. "I thought things were slipping away." Birdies at the 17th, where he hit a six-iron to three feet, and at the 18th, where his sand-wedge approach was within three feet of the hole, salvaged a 70 and left Olazábal, champion here in 1989 and 1990, very much a factor.

SNOOKER

Morgan in control until fate deals more sad news

BY PHIL YATES

DARREN MORGAN, whose recent visits to the game's leading occasions have been blighted by tragedy, was dealt another cruel blow after taking a 6-2 overnight lead against Dominic Dale in the second round of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Preston yesterday.

Morgan compiled three century breaks against Dale, a surprise winner of the Grand Prix last month, but, as he left the Guild Hall auditorium, still in dress suit, he was told that his brother, Roger, 29, had been taken to a hospital emergency ward in South Wales, suffering from a blood clot on his leg.

"I just couldn't take another

blow," Morgan said. Last year, he flew home from the World Cup in Bangkok after his mother, Cynthia, died. This year, his father, Morgan, died while Darren was competing in the world championship at the Crucible, Sheffield. "Since my father died I haven't been able to concentrate properly, but over the past couple of weeks my form has suddenly come back," Morgan, the world No 15, said. "I am just pleased it's happened for me in a match, but I certainly won't be taking anything for granted."

Morgan provided the initial indication that his confidence had returned with a break of

112 in the second frame. He followed up with a run of 108 in the fifth, cleared brown to pink in the sixth and moved 6-1 ahead with a break of 110 in the seventh. "Darren played like a dream," Dale said. Dale needs to win seven of the remaining nine frames today for a place in the last 32.

Stephen Hendry began the defence of his title by conceding a 7-1 lead over John Read, of Wolverhampton. Hendry, attempting to win the championship for the fourth year in succession, was not at his overpowering best, but never looked back after poaching a 40-minute opening frame on the black.

Results, page 36

SAILING

Krantz crew prove more than match

POWERED by winds of more than 50 knots, Swedish Match is maintaining her considerable lead at the head of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet heading for Fremantle, Western Australia. The crew of Gunnar Krantz covered 420.6 miles yesterday, only 14 miles short of the 24-hour record distance for a monohull, as Swedish Match sped through the Southern Ocean at 30 knots per hour.

Innovation Kvaerner, lying second, and third-placed Toshiba are struggling to keep pace. High winds, though, have caused some wear and tear to both Swedish Match and Innovation. The leader has a damaged starboard steering wheel and a broken stanchion and afterguard, as well as a possible rudder problem after a minor collision with a whale. Innovation, meanwhile, put a hole in the deck when a sizeable wave broke over the side of the boat.

Knut Frostad, the Innovation skipper, reported: "Life down below is just a wet mass. On deck, it's just like being hosed down by the fire brigade non-stop. Some of us are lucky enough to have a wet bunk to sleep in."

BOWLS

Hankin inspires narrow victory

BY GORDON DUNWOODIE

ENGLAND, the holders, continued their improved form in the European indoor team championship in Jersey when they claimed wins over Ireland, the leaders, in both the women's fours and men's singles events. The victories brought them within one point of Ireland.

England's women's fours side — Sharon Rickman, Mandy Jacklin, Beryl Alderson and Doreen Hankin — started the revival yesterday with a spirited fightback that saw them claim a last-bowl 22-21 win over the Irish rink, which was led by Margaret Johnston.

Johnston's side — with Muriel Wilkinson at lead, Isabel Bell second and Dossa Baird third — dominated their match almost until the last. They were leading 8-1 after five ends, 14-6 after 11 ends and 20-9 after 14 ends. Ireland were still in front at 21-14 with just four ends to play before Hankin rallied her troops. A count of three on the eighteenth end, followed by singles on the next two, saw England trim Ireland's lead to just two shots going into the

last end where a count of three completed their great escape and gave them a narrow victory.

"We really had to go for it," Hankin said. "Nothing short of a win would have been good enough to put the pressure on Ireland, and thankfully we made it."

The revival continued in round 17 of the men's singles where David Holt, of Blackpool, held on to beat Gary McCloy, of Ireland, 21-17. Holt opened up a commanding 16-8 lead after 20 ends, but followed a maximum four, dropped by a double, to allow McCloy to close to within two at 14-16.

Holt maintained that lead over the next four ends to lead 19-17 and then wrapped up the points when a double on the 27th end gave him victory. England and Ireland both triumphed in the women's singles, with Norma Shaw, of England, beating Karina Phillips, of Jersey, 21-15 and Phillis Nolan, of Ireland, defeating Anne Simon, of Guernsey, 21-16.

Results, page 36

FOOTBALL SATURDAY



In the limelight: Owen appears to cope maturely with fame

Natural born thriller

Michael Owen is 17 and training with the England team. Yet there is no evidence that it's all going to his head. Pictures by Marc Aspland



In the Liverpool back streets: as a child Owen worshipped Everton, then was captivated by Gascoigne's skills in 1990. This week they were together training for England

From somewhere in the back streets around Anfield, the haunting sound of a harmonica drifted out on the breeze. Gradually, it became louder until a small boy, just six or seven years old, danced round a corner with his friend, playing lustily. The instrument was black and yellow with a picture of a parrot on it and he played until he came right up to us. "You must be a Bob Dylan fan," I said. "No," he said indignantly. "I'm a Liverpool supporter."

The spell was broken, the music stopped and the boy's attention wandered. His gaze fell on the bright new white top that Michael Owen was wearing and he ran the outside of his hand up and down it lovingly. The boy called his friend over. "It's so beautiful and smooth," he said, as though he were entranced by its touch.

For a while, the two of them watched as Owen stood in one of the back alleys. "Why's that lad having his picture taken in our entry?" the elder child asked. They ran round to another street so that they could get a closer glimpse of the camera whirring. Later, they had an impromptu kick-about with him near the car-park gates.

Bolder now, they even aimed a few playful punches at English football's newest star and screamed in delight when he started shadow-boxing with them. Eventually and inevitably, though, they realised who it was that they had been entertained by so ardently and a new urgency fell upon them.

They scampered around Owen as he sauntered back to his car, begging and pleading with everyone they came across for a scrap of paper and a pen. When they got what they needed, they thrust them under Owen's nose as he sat in the driver's seat, watching as he wrote as though he was serving out a sumptuous feast.

When he had finished, they tore both their bits of paper from his hand. All their inhibitions had gone now and they

did not seem to mind that Owen was right next to them as they began to try to sell his autograph. "How much will you give us for it, mister?" they said. The little harmonica player had changed his tune.

The episode seemed like a parable, a simplistic warning that there are others out there, more ruthless and more experienced, who will try to buy and sell Owen, to exploit him as he becomes one of the most precious commodities of the burgeoning football business, to throw obstacles and distractions in the way of what promises to be a stellar career.

Were it not for the fact that he is in the midst of a three-match suspension, it is probable that the young striker would have played some part in the England international against Cameroon at Wembley today. He is so highly rated, so much a part of England's future, that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, invited him to train with the squad at Bisham Abbey all week anyway. His chance may come in England's next match in February.

These are important days in Owen's career as he tries to negotiate the pitfalls and the publicity that have become such a large part of any young player's life. He is just 17, but already pressing Robbie Fowler and Karlheinz Riedle for their places in the Liverpool first team. He is performing so impressively that a substantial minority are tipping him to accelerate into Hoddle's squad for the World Cup finals. His feet are not just on the ground, however, they are rooted in stone.

If there are worries about the character and the temperament of that other bright England hope, Rio Ferdinand, there are none about Owen's and to smooth his development he has already gathered a formidable support group around him. Foremost is his father, Terry, now a scout for Liverpool but once an Everton player who later slipped into the lower

leagues. "He took me to one side and told me what was right," Owen said. "I knew I could trust in what he said."

Beyond the influence of his father, he is managed by one of football's more respected agents, who also looks after the business affairs of Alan Shearer and David Platt. He has a kit deal with Umbro, a firm that believes in choosing its representatives with care and claims to prefer a wholesome image to a controversial one.

Shearer is their figurehead, too, but Owen shrugs off

OLIVER HOLT



similarities between his straight-talking, matter-of-fact approach and that of the Newcastle United centre forward. "I have never been any different," Owen said. "I don't put on an act when I speak to people or when I play on the pitch. It is just natural."

More than anything, though, it is because of what he says and the way he says it that Owen impresses. He is a bright, amiable young man who is popular and admired by his peers, but already there is a seriousness of purpose about him that belies his years and bodes well for his footballing future.

This, it seems clear, is not a talent that is going to be frittered away in youthful

excess, drowned in drink or dissipated by the emotional immaturity that Paul Gascoigne has found so difficult to overcome. The threat of injury, of course, is always an unknown but, that apart, Owen is a young man who exudes control over his destiny and a searing singleness of mind.

"I was confident of doing well when I was picked to play in the first team in the Premier League," Owen said. "I have always thought I could. I have always prepared myself to be a professional and when I got my chance I was confident of doing well. I did expect the success I have this season, in a way."

"Since the season began, people tend to recognise you a bit more. But I still keep my feet on the ground. I still live at home near Chester and I intend living at home. I value my family more than anything. I have still got the same friends. I would like to think I haven't changed too much."

"I wouldn't change now. I have always wanted to be a footballer. I have always prepared myself for being a footballer. You hear a lot of people saying how important school qualifications are, but I didn't seem to see the sense in that. If I didn't make it as a professional footballer then I would want to do something in football."

"I have never been out on the razzle before. I don't think too much about the fact that I could be out with my mates going for a drink. I have always wanted to be a footballer and the things that go with it are just there and you cannot change them. It is good to be instilled with discipline right from the start and that is what my Dad gave me."

After two years at the Football Association's School of Excellence at Lillleshall and a brief spell in the Liverpool reserves, Owen scored within 17 minutes of coming off the substitutes' bench for his first team debut away to Wimbledon last May. Those who saw that goal felt they were witnessing the start of something special.

This season, he has started opposing defences with his blistering pace, his confidence and his poise. The big occasions, quite patently, do not frighten him: he scored with a clinical finish in the first leg of Liverpool's Uefa Cup tie against Celtic at Celtic Park earlier this season. He played so well in the first ten games of the season that it became hard for Roy Evans to drop him. So the Liverpool manager dropped Riedle, the German striker, instead once Fowler had returned to fitness.

"You have got to aim for the top in your sport," Owen said. "If you believe yourself that you are better than whoever you are up against, you are halfway there. That is a major factor in it. I go out and play my own game and if I do well I would expect to play in the next game. The manager does not have any favourites, and if you are playing well, he will play you regardless of who else is around."

An Everton supporter when he was younger, he idolised Graeme Sharp and Andy Gray before being captivated by the skills of Gascoigne during the 1990 World Cup. When he first trained with the full England squad, before the World Cup qualifying match with Italy last month, Owen admitted that he was "stunned" at meeting and playing alongside his hero. "Michael has not looked out of place here this week," Gascoigne said yesterday.

Now, though, Owen has a new agenda. Before the season started, his target was to play 12 first-team games. He has hit that already. The new target is two dozen. Nor has he ruled out the possibility of being one of the 22 England players who will get on the plane for France next summer.

"I hope I can get into that squad sooner rather than later," he said. "I don't expect to be in it, but if I am doing well for Liverpool and scoring goals for Liverpool, then who knows what the England manager might be thinking?"

Al Fayed steeling himself for chill wind in Margate

MOHAMED Al Fayed, proprietor of Harrods, the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly and Fulham Football Club, is about to have his suitability for British citizenship put to the test. Even Norman Tebbit could not conjure a more appropriate litmus than Al Fayed undertakes on Sunday, when Fulham, the faded glamour club of west London, travel to non-league Margate for an FA Cup first-round tie that reeks of an upset.

Should Mr Al Fayed require a taste of the welcome in store, he could do worse than walk along Margate's waterfront. On one side, he will find a hostile line of angry sea-horses and idle cargo vessels. On the other, a facade of wilting bingo parlours and deserted amusement arcades. He may struggle to grasp that this was once a thriving resort. He may struggle to recognise that the grunt and spit of Margate Football Club masks a genuine reputation for hospitality. As Keith Piper, the club's chairman, put it: "We like to make our visitors feel welcome before we stuff 'em."

The meter has long since left the scale down at Hartsdown Park, Margate FC is run by a band so small that they would be overrun behind the fruit counter at Harrods. Preparations started the moment that Margate were paired with Fulham in a competition richer in history than Al Fayed's Knightsbridge store. On match day, the telephone is answered not by a faceless secretary but by Robert Griffiths, the club's president.

Some of the diehards, like Ken Tomlinson, the club

Julian Muscat
on the Fulham
owner helping
for Cup success

secretary, have seen it all before. Tomlinson was there 28 years ago when Margate lost an FA Cup second-round replay to Crystal Palace before 30,000 at Selhurst Park. He was there two years later, when, in their greatest playing act to date, the club buried Bournemouth, then among the old third division leaders, 3-0 in the first round.

The wheel has started spinning again. An average

gate of 270 will swell to 6,000 — the maximum allowed by local authorities — courtesy of banks of temporary seating. A scaffold tower, the only skyline rival to a monstrous concrete tower block, has been built to accommodate Sky television. Images of the seriously sloping pitch and arcane stands will be seen by hundreds of thousands at home.

The sheer logistical effort has taken its toll. Fulham officials, encased in their swanky west-London abode, singularly failed to appreciate the demands on local printers, who baulked at the prospect of producing 5,000 match programmes in less

than a week. They were not forthcoming with information on their team, which was eventually obtained, only because Colin Page, a Margate director and passionate Fulham supporter, retained the programme from a recent visit to Craven Cottage.

Many in Margate's predicament would be happy to forfeit home advantage for a bigger pay-day, but the club is through with mere survival, has put behind it a series of bankruptcies, has grown tired of existence in the Dr Martens League southern division. The directors have embraced ambition. The hiring of 12 different managers in five years has earned Piper a reputation commensurate with chairman of FA Carling Premiership clubs.

The latest recruit, Chris Kinnear, is equally ambitious. "It is due reward for the efforts of everyone here, but I am desperate to win the match," he said. "My team knows how to win games and I know we can win this one. With all due respect, Fulham are not Manchester United."

If he has the ambition, Al Fayed certainly has the resources to close the gap between his club and the Premier League champions. In the meantime, he faces the most primitive of footballing baptismes.

Piper was asked why Margate donates the larger of their spartan changing rooms to the visitors. "Because the smaller one is heated," Piper retorted. No cold quite matches the chill wind rising from the coast in winter.

Live on Sky Sports 2, 12-3.30pm tomorrow. Commentary on Radio 5 Live.

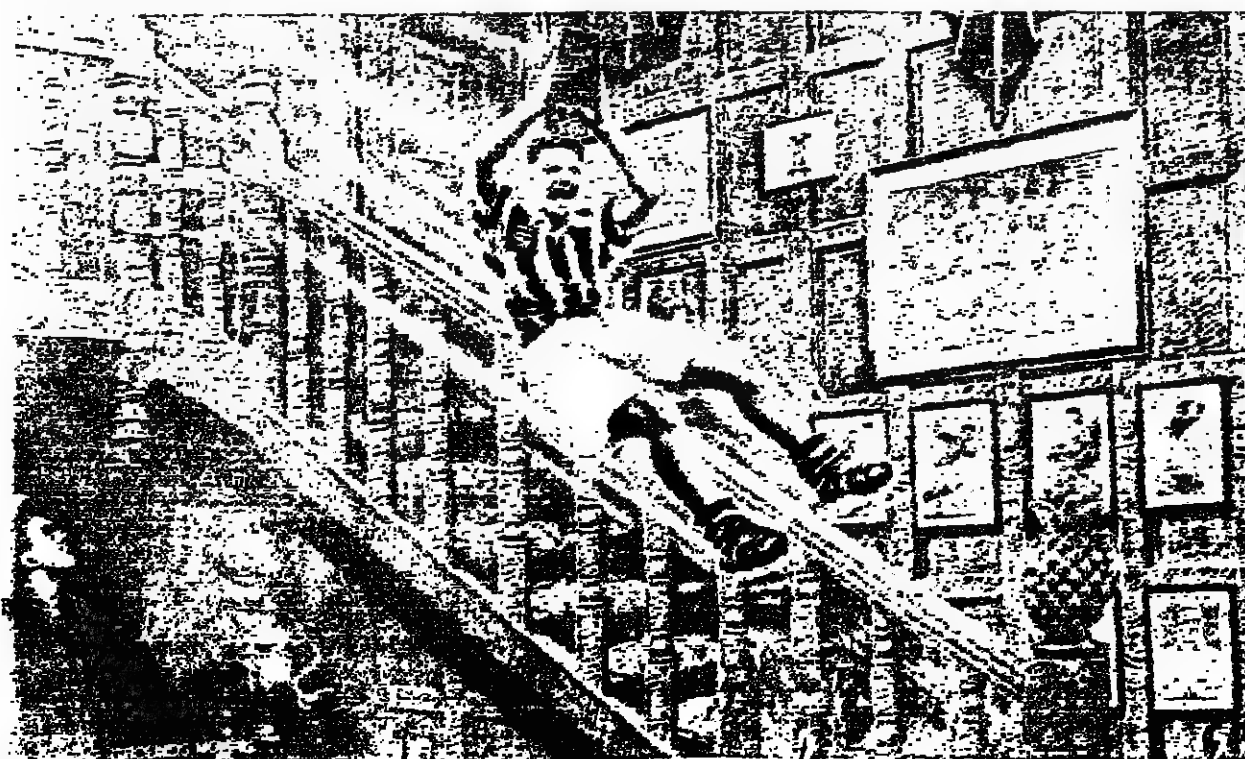


FA CUP

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search for
of England

Ireland's senior

Doubts over fans' cloud Atkinson's



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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Straight talk should help not hinder the refereeing debate

Dealing with the media is something I have always regarded as an enjoyable, as well as an important, part of life as a footballer. Hence this column. I have always been perhaps a little too honest for my own good on occasions, but that is because I believe that issues should be addressed. Opinions spice up the game.

The relationship between players and press is a delicate one, though, and particularly so for foreign players who might be unsure of the language or the different agendas of those they speak to, and I am learning fast about the different extremes of the English media. There has been one incident already this season

involving me. After being sent off against Arsenal I spoke to a couple of tabloid newspaper reporters. Although I accepted the booking for a tackle on Dennis Bergkamp, I said that the Dutchman was sometimes guilty of conning the referee, a point I believed was fair at the time. Cheating was the word I used, so I was shocked the next day when I picked up a paper to read a huge headline using an offensive word, attributed to me, that sounded rather like it. Maybe it was just my French pronunciation, but it shows that you cannot be too careful.

Players have to be wary about what they say and the point was emphasised again recently when I talked in my last column about the

need for Fifa to make referees full-time professionals. Michael Henderson, a colleague on *The Times*, misinterpreted my comment as disparaging officials, but nothing could be farther from the truth.

I have every sympathy with them and was trying to argue that they need proper funding, whether we are talking about English, French or Italian referees. How can they be expected to make split-second decisions when they have spent the week working away from football?

During Le Tournoi last summer, my international colleague, Laurent Blanc, and I were asked to sit down with all the referees in France and discuss how things



FRANK
LEBOEUF

could be improved. It was a very worthwhile meeting. We should have something similar over here.

Blanc prospect

I WAS reunited with Laurent this week when I was recalled to the French squad for the game against Scotland in Saint-Etienne on Wednesday evening. It was a great feeling to be back among the boys who have now christened me "The Englishman". But it struck me

that, so far, the French public has given every sign of being underwhelmed by the prospect of staging the World Cup in the summer.

As a nation, we do not have anything like the English passion for football. One of the main reasons behind my move to Chelsea, and why several of the French squad (whose names I had better protect) have been asking me to put in a good word for them over

here. At clubs such as Monaco and Cannes, you can regularly play in front of just 5,000 spectators and it takes a big game to get the crowd really excited.

That is why the tournament organisers have ensured that France's first game in June is in Marseilles, rather than Paris, because that is traditionally where the atmosphere is at its best for the national side.

While not having to qualify takes away the tension that gripped England for months, the problem is that frustration sets in. Two years of friendlies is not easy on the players or supporters.

At a point proved in the 2-1 victory over Scotland on Wednesday, when I was a substitute. The crowd whistled us off at the end and I suppose their disappointment was understandable because it was a poor game on a very hard pitch that made good football difficult. But the supporters in France can be very demanding and they seem to think we should be able to play like Brazil all the time. If we don't, they let us

know. I am sure the lethargy will disappear once the competition commences and, while it is hard to gauge, I do believe we have players capable of winning the World Cup.

I just hope I can make it into the squad, although I do not believe this will be my last chance. I am confident that the best years are ahead of me as a player.

I came to the game later than others and, in fact, spent the early years of my career as a labourer and sportswear salesman. I was released by Toulon and it took me two years to find another club, working my way up through amateur football. My father even put an advertisement in a soccer magazine for me.

That has taught me patience and I believe it is being rewarded now. Things are going well for me at Chelsea and, provided that stays the same, hopefully I will be in Aimé Jacquet's thinking when the tournament arrives.

Next week: Steve McManaman

Matt Dickinson prepares to join in a World Cup party as Jamaica attempt to put Caribbean football on the map

Moment of truth on island of dreams

THEY tell the time by the sunsets in this lazy land of reggae and rum, but when the clock strikes two in Jamaica tomorrow afternoon, for 90 minutes they will be fretting over every second. With the bustling streets of Kingston deserted, the bars packed and 80,000 fans trying to cram into the 40,000-capacity National Stadium, all eyes will be on the Reggae Boyz, the island's football team, who need only draw against Mexico to become the World Cup's most unlikely, but surely best-loved, finalists.

"Beware all the shooting if we win," one taxi driver warned, so heaven help the consequences should his side lose and be overtaken on goal difference by El Salvador, who must beat the United States.

A country that once launched a full-scale war against Honduras the day after a tempestuous World Cup qualifying match, the El Salvadorans proved that they still subscribe to the Shankly maxim that football is more important than life or death when Jamaica drew 2-2 there on Sunday to set up such a climax.

Kept awake in their hotel until 3am on the eve of the game by a baying mob, the Jamaicans ran onto the pitch to be met by a witchdoctor and effigies being slashed to pieces by a crazed swordsman. Their sprint to the sanctuary of the dressing-room

was through a hail of stones, bottles and urine-filled containers. Now they are back in the safety of their home ground, where the first batch of tickets was sold within minutes. Thousands are expected to sleep outside the stadium tonight in the hope of scavenging a seat for the biggest party since independence on the Caribbean island half the size of Wales, with a population of 2,300,000 and no organised, full-time professional football.

The Jamaica team was forced to flee its Kingston base this week, when more than 2,000 supporters turned into an all-day bonding session, but the seclusion of a north-coast resort has done little to shield them from the mounting expectations of a captivated country.

Yet this is a land that has never been close to qualification before and did not bother entering a team for the 1974, 1982 and 1986 tournaments. Even the bob-sleigh team was taken more seriously than its soccer players. Sprinters? The very best. Cricketers? One born every minute. But football? The nearest they came to celebrations was when John Barnes, whose father once worked for the Jamaican FA, returned on holiday.

Now the squad is reeling in the status of national heroes, none more so than Dean Burton, who hardly cuts a celebrity figure with Derby County, where his FA Car-



Kingston will come to a halt tomorrow as the lucky 40,000 with tickets for the final qualifying game cheer their team against Mexico and on towards France

Thousands of supporters are expected to sleep outside the stadium tonight

ing Premiership career is largely restricted to the bench. After goals in the past four qualifying matches, the young striker would stand a decent chance if he stood for Prime Minister.

The remarkable transformation has been the three-year master plan of the Brazilian coach, Rene Simoes. Almost single-handed, he has overhauled an entire sporting culture. Formerly coach of the Brazil Under-20 team, Simoes painstakingly stores strategies and players' records on a laptop computer. "This idea that Brazilians learn everything on the beach is rubbish," he said. He also shares a football philosophy with Jack

Charlton, recruiting reinforcements to build on Jamaica's slim raw material. Turning to the offspring of a generation of emigrants, the luring of Burton, Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson, of Portsmouth, and Robbie Earle, of Wimbledon, has proved an unqualified success. "When I came here, the Jamaican players were like 11 seals with the ball on their noses—plenty of tricks, but no teamwork," Simoes said. "Many of them were amateurs, driving taxis and working in hotels. Now they have corporate sponsorship and train like professionals."

"I was worried about bringing in players from outside the island

because some of them could not even point to Jamaica on a map. I told the local players they must say if it did not work. But they have all gelled beautifully. Now the English have become Jamaicans. They have started to speak like Jamaicans, even dance like Jamaicans. There are no favours for anyone. They eat the same, drink the same and breathe the same air."

The team headquarters in Kingston are more like barracks than Burnham Beaches, with the players crammed into bunk beds in dormitories and queuing for one telephone. While their clubs have gripped about players swanning off for weeks at a time, for the likes of

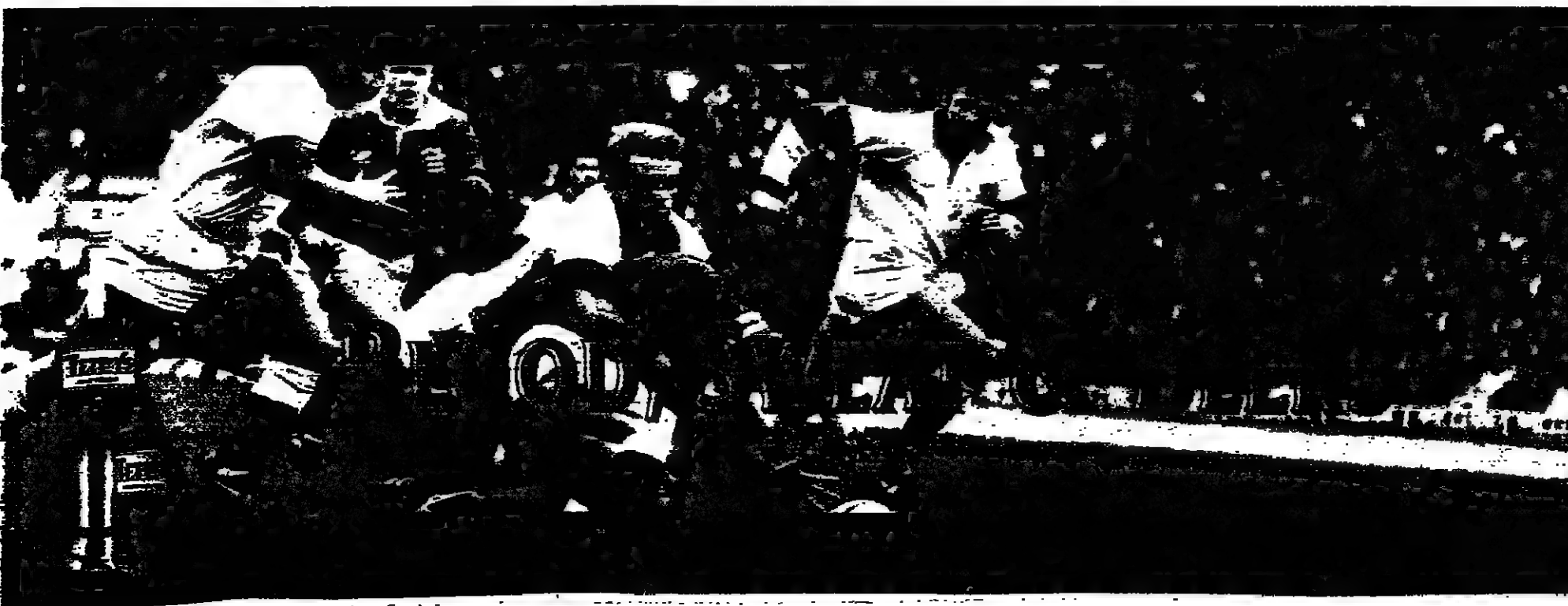
Earle, the Jamaican experience has been unforgettable and rewarding, regardless of the outcome of the match tomorrow.

"I was actually embarrassed when I first turned up and saw some of the ball skills of the boys," the midfielder, who is likely to be on the bench against Mexico, said. "Even the goalkeepers practise juggling the ball for hours. It is frightening to think what some of them could do in the Premiership given the chance."

None has enjoyed the road to France more than Burton, who travelled to Jamaica in the summer with his former Portsmouth teammates, Hall and Simpson, with no

bigger plan than to have a holiday and keep fit. Invited to join in training with the national side, he now spearheads a team on the brink of history. "I took some stick at Derby at first, but if we qualify I will be turning up at training next week dressed from head to toe in my Jamaica gear," he said.

Borrowing a phrase from Bob Marley, Burton was given the nickname One Love after he scored the only goal in the victory over Costa Rica. Against Mexico, who thrashed Jamaica 6-0 in the Azteca Stadium before the arrival of the English players, 1-1 will do. Then it will be off to France for the Reggae Boyz. Prepare for a party.



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GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES

[illegible]

Sparky Gayle carries confident vote

MONDAY: Leicester (first race, 12.50), Plumpton (1.00), Southwell (AW, 1.10).
TUESDAY: Newbury (about 11.00).
Wednesday: 11.00, Llandfeld Park (AW, 1.10).
WEDNESDAY: Haydock Park (1.10), Haverhill (1.00), Kempton Park (1.20).
THURSDAY: Sandefield (1.10), Warwick (12.55), Wincanton (2.10).
FRIDAY: Aintree (1.10), Ascot (BSC, 1.00), Wincanton (1.00).
SATURDAY: Aintree (BSC, 1.05), Ascot (BSC, 12.45), Gatwick (1.00), Market Rasen (12.50).
Real meetings in bold

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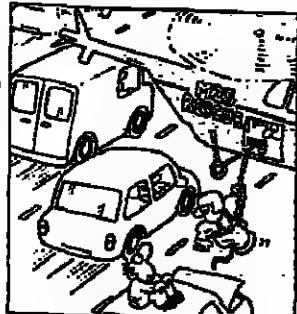
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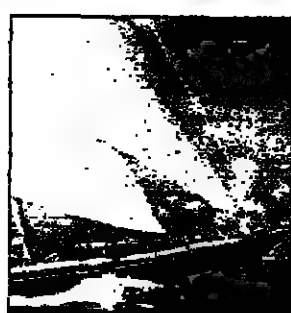
A wider view of motorway congestion

Page 47



A classic contribution to Britain's economy

Page 47



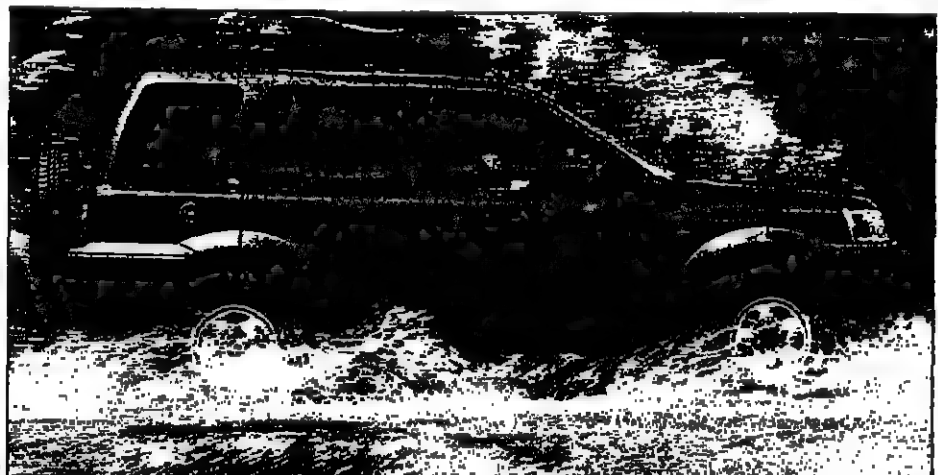
Masterpiece raised from muddy moorings

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 1997

Good fun if you have an inclination

Alan Copps takes a wrong turning and discovers one of the Land Rover Freelander's ingenious abilities



Freelander: only the company's fourth model and a daring step into a high-volume market

Reversing down a 30-degree slope on a surface of loose rubble with your feet clear of the pedals sounds the ideal prescription for an accident.

But try it in the Land Rover Freelander: the car creeps backwards under perfect control, leaving the driver to concentrate on steering away from the crumbling edges. The only unhelpful effect is the electronic parking brake and lock braking system cuts in to limit speed to 9km/h (5.6mph).

This is the world of Hill Descent Control (HDC), the innovation that marks out this new small Land Rover from its competition. Very few of the 60,000 Freelanders the company plans to sell each year will ever venture off Tarmac, but if they do, HDC will help any novice off-roader feel like a veteran rough rider.

Trying this clever device in reverse was not part of the plan when Land Rover marked out its test course along boulder-strewn tracks.

But I turned right where I should have gone left and this little car had clambered up 100 yards before a gaping hole ahead illustrated the error of my ways. The only way back was backwards.

It is a horribly unnatural act to engage reverse, rev the engine enough to get under

way then remove your feet from the pedals. It seems like a short cut to self-destruction. Afraid of racing backwards like a toboggan, I stalled twice before summoning sufficient faith to let HDC take over.

Perhaps my passenger needed even more faith as he stood behind guiding me down. But, once under way, the car eased its way gently over the steepest of safe turning places was found.

The use of HDC replaces the transfer box and low ratios that add so much versatility, but also complication, and weight, to bigger Land Rovers. To engage it you click a switch on the gear shift to reveal a bright yellow collar. It works in both first and reverse and with the help of traction control allows the Freelander to descend slopes of up to 45 degrees. It's more fun to use going forwards when you can see where you're heading.

Perhaps "fun" is not the first word that springs to mind when talking of Land Rovers, but this car takes the company into a whole new and younger market. The Defender, the Range Rover and the Discovery can all be fun to drive but they are defined by their robustness, practicality and versatility. The Freelander, especially in its three-door form, is the first Land Rover to put "fun" first. To succeed, it looks had to match the in-your-face trendiness of cars such as the Suzuki Vitara, but its substance had to exude "Land Rover" solidity.

Whether the world needs another "fun" off-roader — a

car equipped for a use to which less than 10 per cent of those sold will ever be put — is open to dispute. What is beyond doubt is that Land Rover has produced the best yet. It is only the fourth model the company has introduced in its 50-year history and represents a daring step into a high-volume market.

The car was under development before the BMW takeover, and the new owners were impressed enough to back it with massive investment in new plant. It's a very British project but BMW has input cash and rigorous quality control methods that should see off any further doubts about Land Rover's reputation for reliability.

The RAV 4, Toyota's trendsetter in this field of small recreational vehicles, and its recent rival the Honda CR-V, have deservedly won praise for versatility and fine engines. But, given Land Rover's pedigree, the Freelander has to prove itself the supreme off-road performer before entertaining any

thought of driving on Tarmac. That it performs so well on Tarmac, too, is perhaps the true measure of its success.

Knowing that most owners will use this car just like a saloon, and reckoning that 40 per cent of sales will be from previous saloon drivers, Land Rover has made a vehicle that behaves just like one on the road. Its most surprising virtue is its ride, a novel all-round independent suspension ensures there's no hint of

that lumpiness that characterises so many 4x4s.

The lack of height adjustment on the driver's seat seems an odd omission; many might prefer to feel more "in" the car than "on" it. But the company says the "command driving position" is an essential Land Rover feature.

Yet in other ways the vehicle breaks from Land Rover tradition: it has a monocoque body shell with integral chassis, rather than a traditional heavy ladder chassis. This provides rigidity for an interior with

saloon car refinement. It's full of stylish touches, roof panels that can be removed, a soft-top that rolls forward to leave the boot space unencumbered and a rear window that slides down for loading if there's insufficient room to open the wide tailgate.

Both the petrol engine, a returned version of the 1.8-litre used in the MGF, and the 2-litre diesel are impressively refined yet produce lively performance. It's a long way from the "cheap jeep" that founded the Land Rover legend.

FREELANDER

Body style: Three-door soft back or hard top. Five-door station wagon.

Engines: Four-cylinder 1.8-litre petrol or 2-litre diesel.

Transmission: Five-speed manual, permanent four-wheel drive. HDC 1995 option on base models, standard on XE.

Performance: Petrol, 0-60mph in 11.1 seconds, max speed 102mph. Diesel, 14.6 seconds and 90mph.

Economy: Urban 21.7mpg (diesel 29.6mpg); extra urban 32.8mpg (42.4mpg); combined 27.6mpg (36.6mpg).

Price: £15,995-£20,995.



Louise Clark: "I think women feel free to ask me things they might not ask a man for fear of being laughed at"

LEARN WITH LOUISE

'It feels as though it wants to be driven'

FOR LOUISE Clark, 22, Land Rover is not so much a job but a lifestyle. Her father, mother and brother all work for the company. As a demonstrator and instructor at the Land Rover Experience in Solihull, she has helped put Freelander through its early paces.

Now she has just qualified for her heavy goods vehicle licence so she can drive around the 32-ton demonstration unit, with built-in hill to show the ingenuity of Hill Descent Control, that made its debut at the London Motor Show last month.

With Freelander expected to win new converts and 40 per cent of buyers expected to be women, the Experience, the company's purpose built 4x4 course which includes a 50 per cent gradient and a series of steps on a 33 per cent hill, is preparing for a rush of business.

"The Freelander is much more fun to drive than the bigger vehicles and feels as though it wants to be driven," she says. "It's pretty foolproof, but there are a lot of owners who want to find out what their vehicle can do off-road even if they don't intend to use it that way."

"I get to drive with a lot of women. I think they feel free to ask me a lot of things they might not ask a man for fear of being laughed at."

She joined the company as an engineering apprentice and took up her instructor's role 2½ years ago. Outside work she drives a Land Rover 90, but says she can't wait to get her hands on a Freelander.

Tom Purves, sales and marketing director, says the new car will bring a lot of younger drivers to the Land Rover brand. Sales of 4WD cars around the world have doubled in the past five years to three million and smaller cars are leading that increase.

If Land Rover succeeds in selling 60,000 Freelanders next year, with 60 per cent going for export, it will make Rover Group Britain's second largest exporter with sales of £4.5 billion a year.

How did Mercedes produce a car that is a rollover lottery?

Standard international safety tests should have avoided a humiliating £100m disaster

Mercedes-Benz's decision to halt production and deliveries of its A-Class supermini while it invests £100 million in improved safety is probably a face-saving move for the car maker's most expensive loss of face since US consumer champion Ralph Nader took on General Motors in the 1970s, writes Alan Copps.

But while the company has suffered a major humiliation, the episode also raises questions about the effectiveness of testing, both to meet official standards and by motoring magazines, some of which claim that their tests provide comprehensive information for consumers. The danger that the A-Class might roll over in a sudden swerve was dramatically proved by Robert Collin of the Swedish magazine *Teknikens Värld* when he tried the "elk or mouse" test at 37.5mph. The car fell on its side. It was later pictured on two wheels during much higher speed slalom tests by the German magazine *Autobild*.

The mouse test is a peculiarly Swedish thing. A test of damage to the car in collision with a (fake) mouse has been carried out by Saab, for example, on every model since 1980 when the former managing director, Björn Lundholm, was killed after hitting one of the beasts, a common hazard in parts of that country. Saab claims that its tests, which involve dozens of different kinds of collisions, far exceed anything laid down by law.

What Collin was attempting was a "mouse avoidance" test, a variation on a test for which there is a standard, international standard. Such tests require expert and experienced drivers as well as scientific planning to be valid. The sort of swerve produced in this case might equally be made by a car attempting to avoid a child running out into a narrow street. The car in the test was laden to the maximum level with five passengers and heavy luggage.

The last car to fail this test by the Swedish magazine was a Skoda 20 years ago, but it is known as a regular test and one of the most baffling things about the whole episode is why Mercedes had not attempted it in pre-production proving. Companies usually sacrifice a number of prototypes in such tests; Land Rover, for example, claims to have destroyed 100 of its new Freelanders. It is especially cautious about roll-over testing after a number of serious motorway accidents involving Range Rovers a few years ago.

Mark Payton, editor of *What Car?*, the nearest British equivalent to *Teknikens Värld* or *Autobild*, said he had sanctioned publication of his magazine's current issue which includes a review of the A-Class in which road testers comment that it handles badly under certain conditions. "My testers are expert and experienced drivers," Payton said. "They do things that scare me stiff."



Mercedes-Benz A-Class: fell over on its side in a "mouse test"

I asked them if they thought the car would topple over and they said no, although they said the handling was not satisfactory. We put cars through high-speed lane-changing tests. I think the mouse test is representative of a very serious situation, but one that might arise."

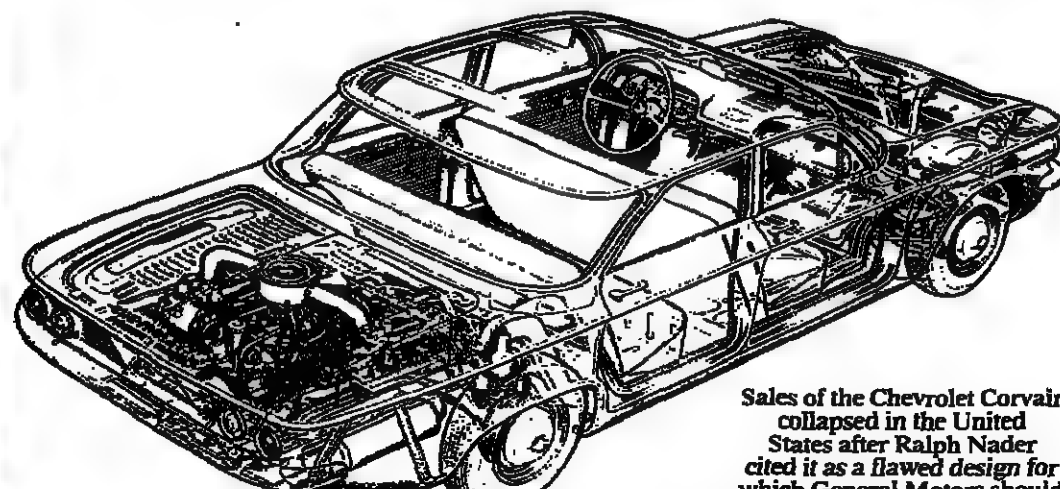
International standards on crash testing were dramatically influenced by campaigns led by United States consumer groups in the 1960s. In his book *Unsafe at Any Speed*, Nader took on the might of General Motors, citing the rear-engine Chevrolet Corvair as an example of a flawed design for which the manufacturer should be held accountable.

Its worst problem was instability at speed which could be sufficient to break the rear axles, causing the car

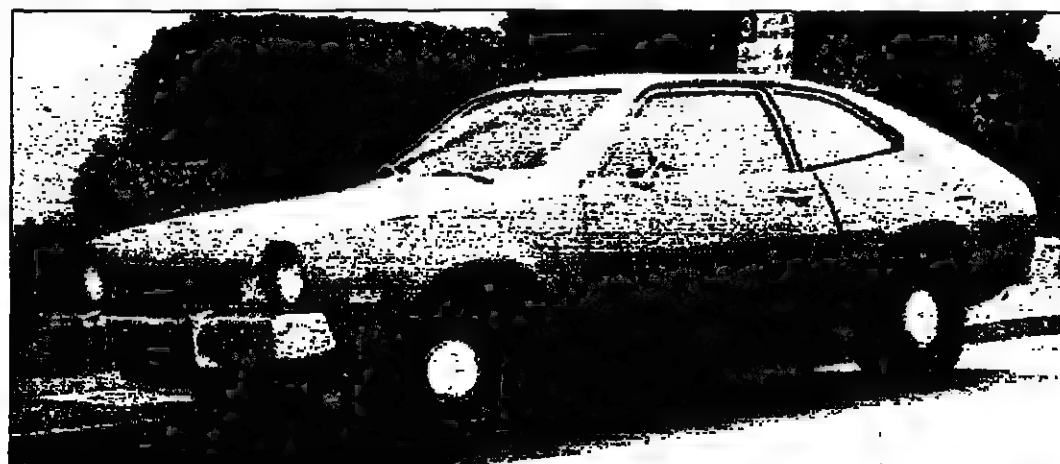
to spin out of control or even flip over. Before the book was published GM sold 1.5 million Corvairs; it provoked a courtroom confrontation between Nader and GM directors and afterwards only 125,000 were sold before the model was withdrawn in 1969.

Another court case led to the demise of the Ford Pinto, a compact car introduced in 1970. It suffered a series of transmission problems at first, but later its major flaw became apparent — the fuel tank was prone to explode after even a minor rear-end collision.


Manufacturers throughout the world routinely recall hundreds of thousands of models each year when post-production faults arise. But, in the words of Robert Collin: "The A-Class is a disaster."



Sales of the Chevrolet Corvair collapsed in the United States after Ralph Nader cited it as a flawed design for which General Motors should be held responsible



Ford Pinto: a nasty habit of the petrol tank bursting into flames after even a minor rear-end collision



go

able to sail in some comfort on a boat still capable of racing and which without him would still be rotting away on her mooring in Portsmouth? *Velsheda* is heading for her first winter in the Caribbean for years and after that she will once again grace many of the world's most spectacular regattas.

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SNAPSHOT 56

Cover for the photographer covering jobs

WEEKEND MONEY

EASY RIDERS 59

Making the most of your twilight years



Would EMU bring heaven or hell?

Abandoning the pound and allowing interest rates for Britain to be set by bankers in Frankfurt will please many in business and could lead to lower interest rates. But other people remain unconvinced, reports Susan Emmett

Economic and monetary union (EMU) is one of the most contentious issues facing politicians and businessmen. The announcement by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, that Britain will not be joining the single currency before the next Parliament has certainly furnished the battleground for the next election.

The Confederation of British Industry spent this week discussing the effects of monetary union on business. But the new currency will also herald important changes in the way we all save, invest and buy property. So, would giving up the pound mean more euros in your pocket?

The concept of monetary union, laid out in the Maastricht treaty in 1991, is to move Europe to a single currency by 1999. The euro, the new unit of currency, will replace the national currencies of EMU states and European interest rates will be decided centrally by the new European Central Bank.

But before this can happen, member states must meet a number of convergence criteria governing inflation, the budget deficit and public debt. Not all countries will qualify in time. Others like Britain may choose to stay out of the first wave. But when Britain joins, if it joins (the decision is subject to a national referendum), there will be a number of practical as well as economic implications to consider from scrapping exchange rates within the EMU to the possibility of lower interest rates to match those of the Continent.

If everything goes according to plan, national currencies will remain in circulation from the start of EMU in January 1999 until January 2002. The euro, Europe's current basket of currencies which includes

sterling, will be replaced by the euro which will not include the pound until Britain joins.

After the start of EMU, the exchange rates between member countries will be locked and the currencies will be interchangeable. If Britain were to join today, the euro would be roughly worth £0.70.

Moving around Europe will become easier for holidaymakers and business travellers and an end to exchange rate uncertainty will broaden the scope for British investors.

With no currency fluctuation to worry about, investing in a company in Strasbourg will be no different from supporting a business in Scarborough.

Pension fund managers will also take advantage of a wider pool of investment opportunities that could benefit private pension holders. Currently pension portfolios invest in different sectors but are mainly in the United Kingdom. Monetary union could see a shift to exposure across Europe.

Bernard Muldoon, manager of the Halifax euro planning unit, said: "I think we will see a portfolio shift over a period of time but it will not happen overnight. It will be gradual as the euro establishes itself."

The success of pension funds will always depend on the health of the stock market where investments are held. With the new currency likely to increase competition across Europe, by removing the costs to companies of exchanging money, economists say companies will perform better.

Convergence criteria dictate that low levels of inflation must be reached before entry into a single currency. Many economists argue that maintaining low levels of



rates will plummet but it doesn't mean that mortgage rates will drop," he said.

"It's not as cut and dried as commentators think. Thoughts of a 4 per cent mortgage rate early in the next century seem a little optimistic. Base rates may well come down but I'm not so sure mortgage rates will follow."

CURRENCIES

Going to the sweet shop will never be the same after 2002. Cola fizzes, strawberry shoelaces and gobstoppers, purchased for a few pence, will be paid for in euros, putting an end to penny sweets.

But changes in pricing will affect more than those with small pocket money. Consumers and retailers alike will have to adjust to new notes and coins of different denomination and changed methods of pricing.

There will be seven new euro banknotes ranging from five to 500 euros, the equivalent today of £3.50 to £350. Price tags conveniently rounded up to the nearest 99 pence will, after conversion, look much less attractive to the consumer in euros. Retailers are likely to want to round prices up or down, which could lead to profiteering or squeezed margins.

Confusion in the run-up to the single currency is likely to spill beyond the high street as companies and organisations convert at different stages.

Department of Social Security payments, salaries, standing orders and direct debits will all be affected by the change, although not necessarily at the same time. Competition may force some providers to introduce new services and products in euros early while others might wait until the last minute before adopting the new currency.

The Consumers' Association is currently pressing for legislation making it compulsory for outlets to provide information in both currencies. If the association has its way, every shopkeeper, building society and bank would be obliged to give information in both currencies during the six months before convergence and as long as both currencies are in circulation after that.

inflation is the key to successful monetary union.

Traditionally, inflation has been far higher in Britain than on the Continent. British headline inflation rose from 3.6 to 3.7 per cent last month compared with Germany's headline rate of inflation of 1.9 per cent and France's at about 1.3 per cent.

If inflation falls, so do interest rates. In spite of the recent rise, the UK base rate, the yardstick for all interest rates, is still at an historically low level, but remains much higher than rates on the Continent.

At 7.25 per cent, Britain's clearing bank base rate, is twice as high as the German equivalent, which is

set at 3.3 per cent. Economists say that entry into EMU would generate a decline in United Kingdom rates to continental levels. David Kern, chief economist for NatWest Group said: "Sterling interest rates and mortgage rates would be lower if Britain were to join the euro-zone."

SAVINGS

Building society and postal account savers will have to come to terms with their money tree developing Bonzai proportions and those who rely on income from their savings might feel there is less to spend each month. But lower levels of

inflation will mean that in the long term savings will not be eroded by rising prices.

Low inflation brought about by monetary union will also blur the distinction between long and short-term interest rates.

Traditionally, the longer savers are prepared to put away their money, the better the rates. But with stable inflation, Britain's rates may well match those on the Continent where short and long-term rates are similar.

MORTGAGES

Bad news for savers usually bodes well for homeowners as low inter-

est rates should, in theory, push down the cost of mortgages. Barry Naisbitt, chief economist at Abbey National, said: "The key thing about monetary union is maintaining low levels of inflation that can lead to low levels of interest rates."

"Quite possibly mortgage rates will go lower if the group as a whole is successful in maintaining stable and low levels of inflation. But until we see more meat on the bones it is difficult to make straight pronouncements."

But Simon Tyler, managing director of Chase de Vere Mortgage Management, is sceptical that EMU will automatically bring down the cost of borrowing. "Base

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The phantom bids fiasco

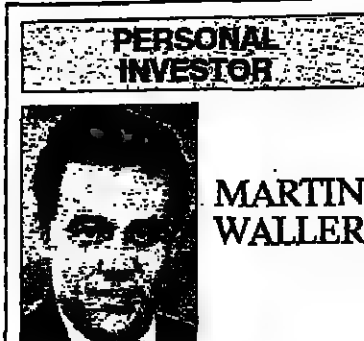
The fiasco this week that was the end of the on-off bid for Vickers had more than a faint whiff of the late 1980s about it. In the blue corner, one of our most respected engineers and a name of world renown. In the red corner, an acquisition-led newcomer in a cheeky attempt to leapfrog into the big league by issuing large amounts of fresh equity.

We will never know the merits or otherwise to Vickers shareholders of exchanging their shares for some in Mayflower, a company few of them outside the big City institutions had probably heard of. The bid, which wasn't really a bid, was driven off the road by the German car industry.

It was not a bid because no one at Mayflower launched a formal offer. This made little difference to the Vickers share price, of course, which jumped by almost 13 per cent on the day the news leaked.

A few weeks ago WH Smith was in almost the same position. An outsider might bid for the company, Tim Waterstone, one of our most respected retailers and the man who founded the eponymous book chain and then sold it to WH Smith, had raised enough City cash to put together an offer. He would buy the company, hang on to the bookshops — an appealingly sentimental twist to the tale, that — and sell off the rest, including the familiar high street stores. This would pay off much of the debt taken on to fund the takeover. All well and good — except that Mr Waterstone never got around to bidding.

There are some parallels in these "phantom bids". WH Smith is the retailer that lost its way; its shares have underperformed the market over the past five years. Vickers has



PERSONAL INVESTOR

MARTIN WALLER

underperformed in the past 12 months. WH Smith is criticised for its lack of retailing flair; Vickers has dithered over the sale of its Rolls-Royce luxury cars for as long as anyone can remember, and as a manufacturer of armoured fighting vehicles it is probably too small to compete in the world defence industry of today.

It is the function of the hostile takeover bid — indeed, it is its sole justification — that it is one way exchange one load of underperforming managers for another set that might do the job better.

But there are rules enshrined in the City code on takeovers and mergers to ensure that management does not have to spend too long looking over its shoulder for corporate predators, to the detriment of other duties. A bid that fails cannot be repeated by the same party for a year unless with the agreement of the target company.

Mayflower was forced to withdraw because BMW, the German car manufacturer, took against any takeover of Vickers and threatened reprisals. The company was under formal City rules

in an "offer period", so the one-year bar then applied. But so long are the time scales set by the City Takeover Panel charged with enforcing the code that the affair could theoretically have dragged on until next Easter. Bidders have, in such situations, weeks rather than days to put together a formal offer before pressure is brought to put up or shut up. Once this happens, shareholders have up to three months, a ludicrously long time in these days of computerised share trading, to decide.

WH Smith's case is all the harder. Mr Waterstone's own phantom bid was only briefly in a formal offer period. Officially, his last informal proposal to the Smith board was refused and so lapsed. He can now spend the remaining years God gives him happily building his new Daisy & Tom children's chain.

Alternatively, he can bid for WH Smith on Monday. WH Smith's shares are above where they were when he first popped up, which might suggest not everyone has given up hope of this happening. Or he could watch the company fall to pull up its socks and take more stock from the City, see its shares plunge further and then return next summer to offer rather less than he would have had to pay this autumn. He keeps his options open.

This does not seem fair, especially to the small investor. The big City battalions, I reckon, can look after themselves. They are in close contact with WH Smith and, if they so choose, Mr Waterstone and his advisers. But private investors lack the certainty that, if they finally lose patience with the management and sell this month, Mr Waterstone will not be back running his beloved bookstores in the new year.

Access to the latest stock market information is no longer just for City big boys. Up-to-the-minute quotes from DataStream, one of the world's top stock market research databases, are now within the reach of home investors via the Internet. Market-Eye Premium, DataStream's latest site, launched last week, provides real-time financial information to anyone with a computer and a modem.

Features include latest prices on the London Stock Exchange as well as information on the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), investment trusts, foreign exchanges and 32,000 international share prices. The site also allows investors to manage their portfolios by keeping track of the user's investments and posting the latest quotes at the click of a mouse. For further information, home investors can access up to nine different charts for each share.

Users also have access to DataStream's vast historical

DataStream fuels the fantasies of back-bedroom stockbrokers

database which has been providing the City with company reports and accounts since 1964. DataStream's latest site follows the Market-Eye free service launched in July which has attracted 11,000 investors and is currently signing up 100 subscribers a day. But unlike the Premium service, share prices reach this site after a 20-minute delay.

Since the Stock Exchange relaxed its rules in June, the number of Internet sites offering prices information has mushroomed. As the Stock Exchange charges for real-time information, Internet

sites with up-to-the-minute valuations come at a cost while those with prices on a 20-minute delay tend to be free.

Yahoo!, the Internet company, is the latest household name to offer stock market news and data at no cost. There is no need to register for the service which offers prices with a 20-minute delay and financial news from Reuters and the Press Association. Other features include exchange rates, precious metal prices, company profiles and share prices from the Paris and Frankfurt

INVESTMENT A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

markets. The amount charged by real-time sites vary. Market-Eye's introductory offer of £10 a month goes up to £20 in the new year.

ESI (electronic share information) also charges £20 a month for real-time information on prices but offers a free service with a 20-minute delay. The ESI site gives the overall value of the FTSE 100, provides AFK news headlines and offers users access to brokers such as Sharelink.

Infotrade, owned by Mitsubishi Electric, charges £23.50 a month for real-time valuations. This site also offers a portfolio management service for up to 20 portfolios each holding 40 stocks and online share dealing via Sharelink, Caterdell and Stocktrade.

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Smug rival

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Smug rivals may feel Tesco backlash

The woes of Tesco Personal Finance must be spreading Schadenfreude throughout the retail savings world, a sphere where smugness is already endemic. Having entered the market with an account paying a generous rate, in direct competition with banks and building societies, Tesco has failed to cope with demand.

Events have followed the usual pattern of such episodes. Discontent turns to anger as telephones go unanswered and letters are left unacknowledged for weeks (see page 64). In response, the company apologises, pledging significant improvements. Still the complaints continue. Here news management steps in, murmuring soothing things about "isolated incidents" and "clearing up backlogs". Meanwhile, there are quiet payments of compensation to the more vociferous complainants.



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Although Tesco may not have fully delivered its promise, its move to improve returns for small savers is still praiseworthy. Tesco offers 6.50 per cent on balances of as little as £1. The Halifax's perhaps inappropriately named Liquid Gold account pays 0.5 per cent on balances between £50 and £500. Even the mutuals, who should have a special care for those with hundreds, rather than thousands to save, hardly shower them with riches.

Banks and building societies are

at present reviewing their savings rates, in the wake of the base rate change. Although the shortcomings of the upstart Tesco may make them feel superior, they have little room to feel complacent about their own offerings.

Charges disgrace

IN 1983 Jack Gerrard put £5,000 into a pension plan. Today his investment is worth £5,004. This story would be a farce, if Mr

Gerrard were not terminally ill and anxious about the future of his young family (see page 64).

Those who are unfamiliar with the secretive system for remunerating insurance middlemen will be astonished to learn that £2,500 was deducted from the £5,000 to pay the adviser's commission. This money was then snatched back by Sun Alliance when it became clear that Mr Gerrard's £5,000 was a one-off contribution, not a regular premium. Under the commission system, advisers earn lower rewards for arranging lump-sum payments. Curiously Sun Alliance now refuses to return the money to the pension plan, claiming that it needs the cash to cover costs.

The company has spent thousands publicising the benefits of its merger with Royal. And we wonder why the public is still so reluctant to put money into pensions.

Susan Emmett reports on a plastic problem for Christmas shoppers abroad

The 00 generation arrives

The millennium has come early for millions of plastic card holders as credit and debit cards expiring in the year 2000 have begun to hit the high street. But some new cardholders may have to leave their shopping behind if retailer terminals are not up-to-date.

Visa and Mastercard, the UK's two biggest card companies, lifted their embargo on cards stamped 00 last month in the belief that most retailers and cash machines are now millennium-compliant. According to Visa, 98 per cent of retailers around the world are now ready, though some shopkeepers might have to use their old manual machines and telephone for authorisation.

Ian Gatherer of Visa, which has 524 million cardholders worldwide, said: "So far it has been encouraging. We have not had many cases, but the work is continuous. We have a lot more cards coming out at the year end. Each retailer must have a

back-up. If they have problems getting their cards accepted, cardholders should ask for the manual machine."

The Association of Payment and Clearing Services says 45-50 million cards are replaced per year. As most cards in Europe have a two-year lifespan, millions of consumers will be issued with millennium cards in the run-up to Christmas.

But a number of those who have 00 on their cards have had them rejected both in Britain and abroad because of the expiry date. One couple, David and Haide Partridge, had to leave all their shopping in Calais when the supermarket's electronic reader rejected their new Barclaycard Visa cards.

The problem arises because many computers are still programmed to read only the last two digits of each year. Unless adjustments are made, retailers' machines and cash dispensers assume a card expiring in the year 2000 expired 100 years

earlier and is not valid. So far only Visa and Mastercard have issued cards with 00 expiry dates. Smaller suppliers have waited until teething problems are solved. Atalia Da Silva of American Express, with about 4.5 million cardholders, said: "We are assessing the situation constantly. Merchants in Europe and in less developed countries are not compliant and cards can be rejected. We are waiting to see what happens."

A wait-and-see policy has also been adopted by most high street banks. Among the big banks, only Barclays and Halifax started issuing the new cards this autumn. Lloyds TSB will introduce 00 cards in December for those whose cards expire in January but others such as NatWest do not expect to bring in 00 cards for another two to three months.

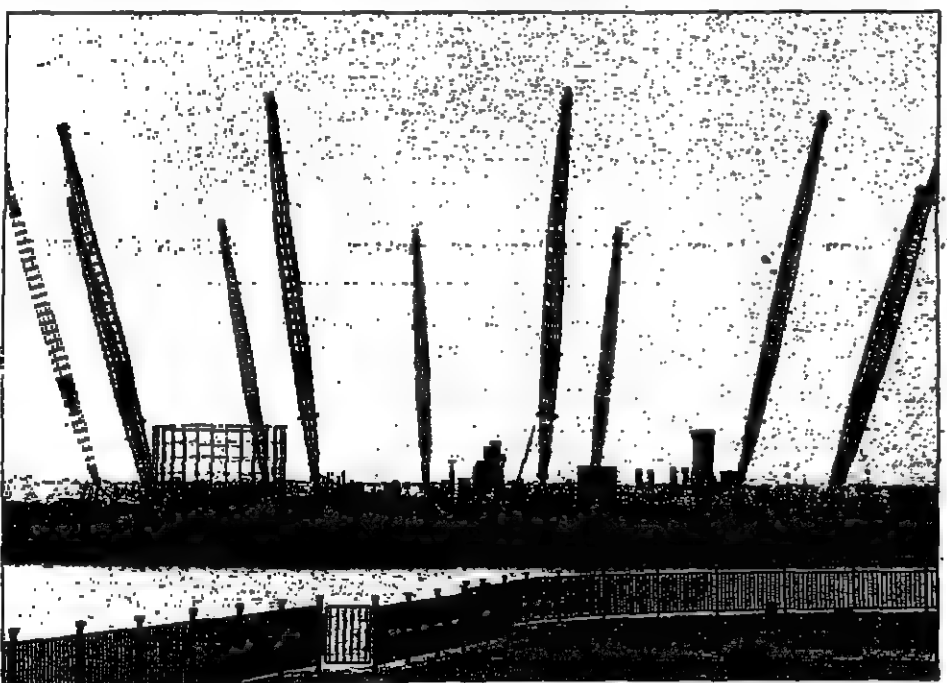
Jerry Whitmarsh, programme manager for NatWest Bank,

said: "With well over one million retail terminals in the UK, we are worried there may be some instances when consumers have problems, so we have adopted a wait-and-see policy. We are keeping the situation under review. In theory everything has been done, it's just a question of how confident we can be that something hasn't been overlooked. Statistically we can expect teething problems of some sort."

The main reason for the delay is lack of confidence that retailers abroad are not up to speed and people trying to use their cards overseas may be left stranded by the millennium

bug. Mr Whitmarsh said: "The problem is more abroad than in the UK. People don't want to be stranded, unable to pay for their hotel through relying on a single bit of plastic."

In this country, the British Retail Consortium says it is in the retailers' interest to get it right but consumers must complain if they have any problems. Ann Grain of the British Retail Consortium said: "We have urged all our members to be compliant. But consumers must complain and voice any problems to make sure they are solved. It will never be perfect. Some people have already had problems with 00 cards."



By the time the Millennium Dome is built, it is hoped the 2000 bug will have disappeared

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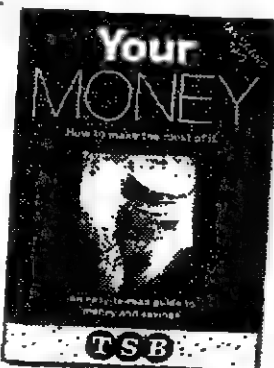
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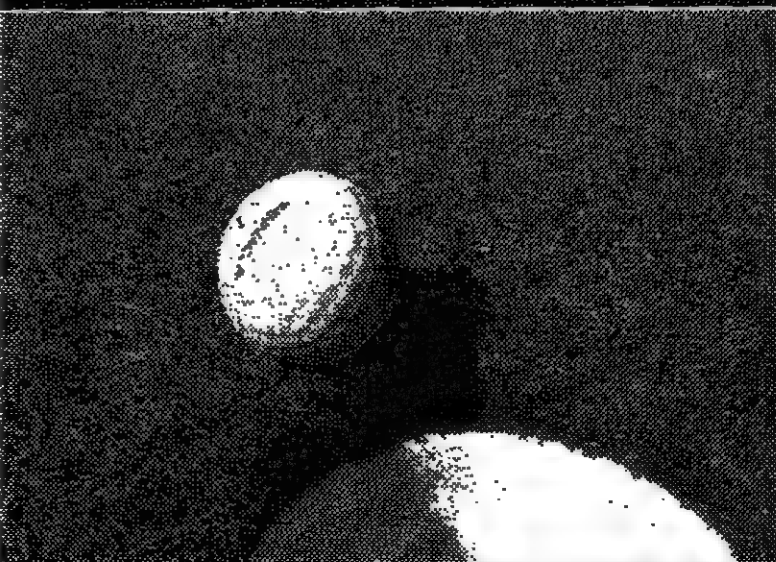
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Jingle Bells: traditionally, Japanese spend the equivalent of 3 per cent of the gross domestic product at Christmas time

Alarm in the land of the rising crisis

Investors in Japan are reeling and the experts see little hope, says Caroline Merrell

The next three months will be crucial for the thousands of UK investors who have a total of £5 billion invested in Japan. The eight-year bear market that has dogged stock prices in Japan has now reached a defining moment.

The stock market only has to fall by another few per cent for many of Japan's biggest banks to become insolvent, according to domestic accounting rules.

As the banks comprise 15 per cent of the stock market, any meltdown in the sector has severe implications for the level of the index as well as the economy as a whole. At the moment the Nikkei index is around the 15,000 level. If it fell to 14,000, many banks could be affected. A fall to 12,000 would be disastrous for the financial sector.

The fact that Japan appears to be on the brink of a catastrophe will not be music to the ears of the many UK savers who were encouraged to put their money into Japan three years ago.

At the time the UK fund management industry took the view that Japan was poised to follow all the other devel-

oped nations out of recession. They argued that Japanese companies had finally begun to take action to increase productivity and become more competitive. They claimed that company profits were beginning to grow even though the yen's strength was hampering exports.

However, despite the injections of trillions of yen into the economy by the Government, low interest rates, no inflation and a huge trade surplus, no real recovery has yet been experienced in share prices.

For those who invested five years ago, the minimum time horizon that should be contemplated by anyone planning to put their hard-earned cash into Japan, returns have been even worse.

According to statistics from Micropal, £1,000 invested in Martin Currie's Japan fund would now be worth a little over £1,400. This fund is the

top performing unit trust over five years.

The incredibly low returns experienced by UK investors who took the plunge into Japan five years ago are especially galling when compared with the returns earned by investors in other developed markets, such as the US and the UK.

In fact, £1,000 invested in a Halifax deposit account five years ago would be worth £1,216 before tax, considerably more than the £1,025 that would have been earned by the average Japanese unit trust over five years. Those who put their money into the bottom-performing Japanese fund from Henderson would have suffered a 25 per cent reduction in their investments.

Today, those that manage Japanese unit trusts and investment trusts have very little positive news about the future for share prices.

Over the short term, the performances of Japanese funds have been even worse. On average, unit trust prices have fallen by 25 per cent over the past three months, in response to the economic problems that riddle the other Far Eastern countries.

Currency devaluations in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and now South Korea have direct implications for Japanese companies, which export a large proportion of their goods to these destinations.

Devaluation of currencies in the region will make Japanese imports far more expensive, which will hit exporters. Particularly painful will be any further devaluation of the won, the Korean currency. A further fall will make Japanese exports seem even more costly.

Today, compared with three years ago, most UK fund managers have a far more pessimistic view of the future. All believe that the time has come for the Government to take action to try to push Japan out of its eight-year bear market.

Scott McGlashan, head of Far Eastern investment at Perpetual, said: "I am optimistic only over the longer term. It is a pretty dangerous situation, particularly with what is happening in the rest of Asia. If the Korean won is also devalued, then the situation will get much worse. A host of heavy industry companies in Japan compete head-on with companies in Korea. Devalua-

tion of the Korean currency will make Korean goods about 20 per cent cheaper. It is potentially a huge problem.

"The other big problem that keeps resurfacing is financial sector meltdown. This is a terrifying prospect. You would see the start of some sort of crisis management. The Government might be forced to nationalise some of the banks, like the US did with the Continental Illinois."

He pointed out that despite the fact the Japanese had one of the highest savings ratios, of the highest savings ratios, they preferred to leave their money on very low-interest-bearing accounts — a reflection of the total lack of confidence in the economy. Mr McGlashan also believes that the yen could strengthen, which will make Japanese exports even more uncompetitive.

Despite Mr McGlashan's pessimism about the short-term problems, he feels that the direness of the situation means that things can only get better after getting worse.

"In 1933, one in four US banks collapsed; over the next four years, the Dow actually trebled in value. Japanese companies could eventually go through some consolidations, involving share buybacks and mergers, both of which could aid the ailing stock market."

Dennis Clough, Schroders director, echoes his short-term views of the market. He believes that the immediate future will depend on the problems in Asia.

"Whether the future is slightly bad or very bad depends on China. If it follows the rest of Asia into recession then the situation could be very bad indeed."

On the plus side, Mr Clough believes that earnings from Japanese companies could eventually show some sort of recovery.

Ian Wright, of Foreign & Colonial, said that if the market went very much lower the Government would have to take drastic action, which would be good for share prices and help beleaguered UK investors. "Something would have to give."

He believes that Christmas will be a critical period for the economy. "Traditionally, the Japanese spend the equivalent of 3 per cent of the gross domestic product at Christmas time." Again, he thinks there could be some sharp rises after a further fall.

However, UK investors with holdings in Japan might consider the example of Barton Biggs, Morgan Stanley's legendary investment guru, who claims that it is time for foreign investors to stop waiting for Tokyo to recover. He advises investors to cut their losses and sell.



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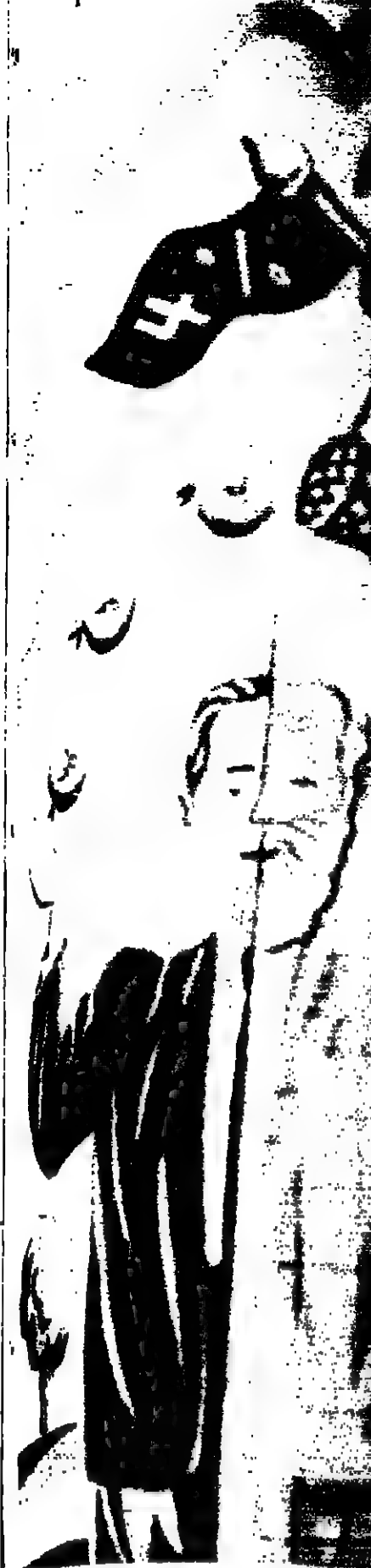
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Patrick Collin



Widowers are discrimination



Patrick Collinson tries to find his way around the commission maze for financial products

Where your money goes

How much commission do financial advisers earn? Not much if it is a simple lump-sum product such as a unit trust or a PEP, but they can hit the jackpot when selling a big endowment policy to repay a mortgage.

Since 1994, financial advisers, whether they be independent financial advisers, representatives from direct sales forces or the man from the Pru, have been obliged by regulators to reveal commissions and fees.

The idea is that disclosure of charges and commissions helps consumers to shop around to find the best value policy. The reality, as Weekend Money discovered in a snapshot commission survey, is that only the most determined customer can make sense of commissions.

Commission is paid in many ways — upfront, level and renewal — and is subject to "uplift" and "override" for larger volume sales. While it is easy to identify how much an IFA earns from a product he recommends, identifying the equivalent figure for a direct salesman, who is paid a mix of salary and commission and has company-supplied benefits, is far more hazardous.

A rule of thumb is that direct salesmen receive about 20 per cent more than IFAs, according to surveys carried out on behalf of the FIA, the regulator. Whatever the status of the middleman, his remuneration is paid out of the money you invest.

Widowers are irate over sex discrimination in schemes

Following a Weekend Money article revealing that widowers did not enjoy pension rights in the state scheme, readers are now wondering whether they will face sex discrimination in their company schemes. Although company schemes now have to provide equal widows' and widowers' benefits, it was not always so.

James Miller, a Weekend Money reader, says that under his wife's pension scheme "I would receive 50 per cent of her pension based on service from April 6, 1988, only". Since she retired in August 1991, it means any benefit he gets will be calculated on just over three years' service only. Is this legal, he asks?

Pensions Postbag replies: Unfortunately, it is. Changes in practice in recent years have not had to be backdated and according to Roger Key, company pension fund expert at Watson Wyatt, the actuary and consultant, there was nothing which required occupational schemes to make any provision for widowers' pensions prior to April 1988.

Some did provide widowers' benefits but it was universal. "They took the traditional view that the man was the main breadwinner and his widow needed to be provided for. They didn't feel the same way about widowers," said Mr Key. In spite of the difference in benefits, women did not pay lower contributions.

But employers at the time did not feel women were being short-changed, partly because the cost of buying a female employee's pension was higher anyway (they live longer and retired earlier then).

The change came when alterations were made to Serps (the state earnings related pension scheme) in 1988. This required final-salary pension schemes contracted-out of the state scheme to introduce a 50 per cent widower's pension attaching to the "guaranteed minimum pension" (GMP) which replaced the Serps pension. But this only applied to service after April 1988.

Even then they were not obliged to extend this rule to cover all pension benefits, although most schemes did. Strictly speaking, full equalisation only became necessary after 1990 when the European Court ruled that pensions were part of pay and equal treatment must apply. Mr Key

Members of money-purchase pension schemes have generally had greater flexibility because they have a choice of the type of annuity they buy at retirement and the level of spouse's pension it provides.

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Example: An investor puts the maximum permissible £6,000 into a unit-trust based PEP as a one-off lump sum payment.

Nearly all PEP providers would pay just £180 in initial commission on such a plan. Unit trust and PEP commissions are among the most transparent and standardised payments in the financial services industry.

However, some companies have devised methods to pay more commission to PEP sellers. For example, Chamberlain de Broe says NPI will offer a salesman £900 in upfront commission, assuming the client continues with an NPI PEP yearly for five years.

Next week: Fees for advisers

ENDOWMENTS

Typical commission: About 75 per cent of the first year's premium plus 2.5 per cent of premiums after three years.

Example: A 35-year-old man takes an endowment to build enough savings to pay off a £100,000 20-year mortgage.

Chamberlain de Broe says a policy offered by Friends Provident would cost the housebuyer £224.49p per month, assuming the investment grows at 7.5 per cent pa. For arranging this policy, Chamberlain would receive £2,026.36 plus £5.61 per month if it were a commission-based adviser.

Standard Life would charge £227.20 per month and pay an adviser basic commission (without uplift) of £1,577.60 plus £5.60 a month from the 32nd month. Barclays Life

LIFE COVER

Typical commission: All the first year's premiums plus monthly commission of 2.5 per cent of the premium after four years.

Example: A 35-year-old non-smoker takes out life insurance (in this case called level term insurance) to cover the repayment of a £100,000 mortgage if he should die before the mortgage expires in 20 years. Chamberlain de Broe said a

PENSIONS

Typical commission: Half the first year's premiums, plus further monthly commission of about 2.5 per cent of the premium after the policy has been going for at least two years.

Example: A 35-year-old takes out a £200 per month personal pension, intending to retire at 60. Chamberlain de Broe, a London IFA which charges fees and rebates commission, said it would receive (and rebate) £1,611.62p in commission from Scottish Equitable for a £200 per month policy, plus £5 per month after 26 months.

Standard Life said it would pay an IFA commission of

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How much commission do financial advisers earn? Not much if it is a simple lump-sum product such as a unit trust or a PEP, but they can hit the jackpot when selling a big endowment policy to repay a mortgage.

Since 1994, financial advisers, whether they be independent financial advisers, representatives from direct sales forces or the man from the Pru, have been obliged by regulators to reveal commissions and fees.

The idea is that disclosure of charges and commissions helps consumers to shop around to find the best value policy. The reality, as Weekend Money discovered in a snapshot commission survey, is that only the most determined customer can make sense of commissions.

Commission is paid in many ways — upfront, level and renewal — and is subject to "uplift" and "override" for larger volume sales. While it is easy to identify how much an IFA earns from a product he recommends, identifying the equivalent figure for a direct salesman, who is paid a mix of salary and commission and has company-supplied benefits, is far more hazardous.

A rule of thumb is that direct salesmen receive about 20 per cent more than IFAs, according to surveys carried out on behalf of the FIA, the regulator. Whatever the status of the middleman, his remuneration is paid out of the money you invest.

Widowers are irate over sex discrimination in schemes

Following a Weekend Money article revealing that widowers did not enjoy pension rights in the state scheme, readers are now wondering whether they will face sex discrimination in their company schemes. Although company schemes now have to provide equal widows' and widowers' benefits, it was not always so.

James Miller, a Weekend Money reader, says that under his wife's pension scheme "I would receive 50 per cent of her pension based on service from April 6, 1988, only". Since she retired in August 1991, it means any benefit he gets will be calculated on just over three years' service only. Is this legal, he asks?

Pensions Postbag replies: Unfortunately, it is. Changes in practice in recent years have not had to be backdated and according to Roger Key, company pension fund expert at Watson Wyatt, the actuary and consultant, there was nothing which required occupational schemes to make any provision for widowers' pensions prior to April 1988.

Some did provide widowers' benefits but it was universal. "They took the traditional view that the man was the main breadwinner and his widow needed to be provided for. They didn't feel the same way about widowers," said Mr Key. In spite of the difference in benefits, women did not pay lower contributions.

But employers at the time did not feel women were being short-changed, partly because the cost of buying a female employee's pension was higher anyway (they live longer and retired earlier then).

The change came when alterations were made to Serps (the state earnings related pension scheme) in 1988. This required final-salary pension schemes contracted-out of the state scheme to introduce a 50 per cent widower's pension attaching to the "guaranteed minimum pension" (GMP) which replaced the Serps pension. But this only applied to service after April 1988.

Even then they were not obliged to extend this rule to cover all pension benefits, although most schemes did. Strictly speaking, full equalisation only became necessary after 1990 when the European Court ruled that pensions were part of pay and equal treatment must apply. Mr Key

Members of money-purchase pension schemes have generally had greater flexibility because they have a choice of the type of annuity they buy at retirement and the level of spouse's pension it provides.

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When the boot contents costs more than the car

St John Pope, a self-employed photographer, has to take out two separate insurance policies when he renews his motor insurance each year — one to protect the car and its passengers and another to cover his cameras and other photographic equipment.

The 40-year-old London man, who qualifies for a full no-claims discount on his motor policy, pays £198 a year for fully comprehensive cover for his £5,000 1996 Ford Fiesta. Then he has to pay out another £208 to insure his photographic equipment for up to £14,500.

He arranged his motor cover through Churchill Insurance, one of the United Kingdom's top direct insurers, but the motor policy does not include protection for high value equipment when it is carried in the vehicle.

This means he has to buy the separate policy for his photographic equipment through Peter W Edwards, a London-based agent which specialises in insuring photographers and cameramen, to make sure the tools of his trade are

covered against damage or theft from the car.

St John, who lives in Kentish Town, North London, with his girlfriend Liz Cooney, a magazine picture editor, said: "Most insurance companies will insure the car but they won't touch my cameras and other photographic equipment."

"The separate policy covers the equipment for use anywhere in Europe although it stipulates that I must keep everything in the boot and never leave it in the car overnight."

The relatively low-cost car insurance is because St John is a commercial photographer and he says it would be much more expensive if he was working in other areas of the industry.

"Churchill breaks the photography profession down into different areas and if I was a fashion or personality photographer the premiums would be sky-high because there is the chance you might be carrying superstars in your car so the risk increases."

JOHN GIVENS



Dream machine but nightmare costs

Go self-employed, buy a new car and find out what happens to your insurance, says John Givens

With so many other things to think about when starting your own business, it is easy to forget about making sure you have proper insurance for your car.

Most people opting for the self-employed route will use their existing car or van for business purposes, although many will not realise that if they do they must upgrade their insurance cover.

Although this simple task may be towards the bottom of your priority list, it is vital to pay attention to it because if you have an accident that the insurance company can prove happened while you were on business the likelihood is it will refuse to pay your claim.

According to Kay Gorman, of Churchill Insurance, the UK's second-largest direct insurer with 700,000 motor policies in force, how often you use your vehicle for business purposes can be minimal when it comes to underwriters deciding if business usage insurance is necessary.

She said: "Technically just transporting a few files or driving from a company head office to a branch is classed as business usage which would require appropriate insurance. The definition of remaining in the social, domestic and pleasure class is that you can use your car for work purposes to travel from home to work and back again, but nothing else."

Upgrading car insurance from the usual social, domestic and pleasure cover to class one business use is not normally too expensive, unless your vehicle is to be used to carry expensive equipment or dangerous goods such as fireworks or explosives.

Like all insurance, it pays to shop around, especially if your existing insurer wants to increase your premiums substantially, something which happens regularly with companies hoping customers will accept the quote without question.

How much more you pay will depend upon what sort of business you are running. There are still a number of

occupations that insurers consider to be high-risk.

For example, journalists and press photographers often find that before being accepted for car insurance they have to satisfy the underwriters on a number of issues that most other people would be spared.

This is not because insurance companies think members of the press are particularly bad drivers, but because they often assume all journalists and photographers spend their time dashing around the streets of London with high-profile passengers like Alan Shearer or the Spice Girls in their cars, with the attached risk of massive compensation claims if the celebrities are hurt or killed in an accident.

However, most newly self-

employed people, especially those in white-collar professions, such as accountants and solicitors, will find little difference in the cost of class one business usage insurance and regular social, domestic and pleasure cover.

According to Churchill, a 31-year-old man leaving the banking industry to take to the road as an independent financial adviser would see the cost of annual fully comprehensive insurance for his 1995 Volkswagen Golf worth £7,000 rise from £207 to £231 as a result of becoming self-employed. A female with the same profile would see her annual premiums leap from £205 to £220.

However, those people who do thousands of miles each

year in pursuit of their business as a commercial salesman will find their insurance status elevated to class three business usage with premiums loaded accordingly.

Spotting the occupations that mean more expensive motor insurance costs is not as easy as it seems. While it is still true that those classed as superstars — like actors, sports people and musicians — can expect to pay hefty premiums to insure their stretch limos, according to research by Churchill Insurance the four occupations that showed the highest claims ratio last year were deep-sea fishermen, personnel officers, ministers of religion and bakers, while accountants, bank managers, coach drivers and district

nurses boasted the best claims record.

As well as your occupation and recent claims experience, another key factor influencing the size of your insurance bill is the type of vehicle you drive.

UK insurers base assessments on a vehicle rating system of between one and 20, where one is the small, low-risk car like a Fiat 127 and 20 a 180mph hotrod like a Ferrari in demand from both drivers and car thieves.

According to insurers, many people becoming self-employed rush out and buy a top-of-the-range car immediately and then have the problem of finding the funds to pay for the weighty insurance costs and the additional expense of up-

grading to business-class cover.

While the idea of owning a nice car is integral to the dream of becoming self-employed, buying a high-cost car is probably not the wisest thing to do at a time when keeping a tight hold on the purse strings could be vital to your new business's success.

Your best bet might be to get hold of a mid-range car like a Ford Escort 1.4 which comes in at insurance group eight and keeps both motoring and insurance costs down.

No matter how happy you are with your insurer, you may have no choice but to move to a new company since many underwriters, among them Direct Line, the UK's leading telephone-based motor insurance outfit, do not offer business coverage, which is classed as commercial insurance.

As with all insurances, shop around for the best deal before signing on the dotted line.

Accepting the first quote you get will almost certainly mean you will be paying more for your motor insurance than you need to — and if you have not got the time to ring round different companies, contact a broker, pass on the details of your best quote and ask for a lower one.

Alternatively, concentrate on the telephone-based operations like Direct Line and Churchill which cut out the commissions paid to middle men and can pass some of these savings on to the customer. Finally, resist the temptation to mislead the insurer about your claims experience or the car being insured in the hope of getting a cheaper quote. It might save you a few pounds now, but insurers have the right to refuse to pay a claim if they can prove you did not tell the truth when asking for a quote.

Most underwriters work on a trust basis when insurance is taken out but go through the details with a fine-tooth comb when they get a claim. This means that a misleading insurance policy is as much use as no insurance at all.

CAR INSURANCE

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Gavin Lumsden on why the banks are happy with the status quo

The £1m a day reason cheques take so long

There is nothing more galling than having money but not being able to spend it. This is the situation millions of customers of banks and building societies regularly find themselves in because they have to wait at least three days for cheques to clear and money to transfer between accounts.

Last year's abolition of the 200-year-old Bills of Exchange Act should have paved the way for a shortening of the traditional three-working-day clearance cycle, the bane of countless customers for generations, particularly over holidays. Since this reform, banks and building societies no longer have to present cheques physically to the branch of the person who wrote it but can transmit the details electronically.

According to the Association of Payment Clearing Services (Apacs), which has all the main banks and building societies as its members, this should have knocked half a day off the cycle as cheques can now be "truncated" at central clearing offices rather than being sent to local branches for verification. This short cut will save banks and building societies about £30 million a year but is not being passed on to customers who still have to wait three days before the money is transferred.



NICK RAYSON

It is not always easy to avoid the clearance system even if you want to. Jean Mary Dickman of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, a Lloyds customer, wanted to send £30 to her daughter Alexandra in Cheltenham, who also banks with Lloyds. She took along her daughter's account details and made the payment with her credit card at her local branch counter. She was astounded later to

find that it had taken two days for the money to reach Alexandra's account. "If I had known it was going to take that long I could have given her the money myself. I wanted her to have the money that day. It is quite ridiculous," Lloyds said Mrs Dickman should have used a pre-printed deposit slip which would have ensured the money was transferred that day.

for savings accounts. Cheques are then cleared for free. This term covers the practice of most banks and building societies of preventing customers from withdrawing the money for another day or two until they are confident the cheque is unlikely to bounce. It is this delay that most infuriates customers. The reason for it is that bounced cheques are returned to the branch that issued them by post. If after five days banks have not been notified of anything wrong, they allow the money to be withdrawn.

Only about 1 per cent of cheques bounce, usually because there are insufficient funds in the cheque issuer's account or because the cheque is stolen or filled in incorrectly. In other words most customers are prevented from accessing their money as soon as it becomes available because of a small minority of bad cheques. An estimated £5 billion is sitting in bank accounts in this way.

There is an easy solution to this. Bounced cheques could be transmitted electronically,

which would allow banks to clear for value and date on the same day. So far there has been no action, although Apacs says it is receiving consideration. The reason banks and building societies are reluctant to do it is because it would stop them investing the £5 billion on the money markets where it earns about 11 million in interest every day — more than they give to their own customers.

But the situation is even more aggravating because banks and building societies differ in approach. Only the Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank allow people to withdraw on the third day if the cheque is from another institution. The Alliance & Leicester, Co-operative, Halifax, Midland and NatWest make their customers wait another day. However, the Abbey National, Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Britannia, Clydesdale, TSB and Woolwich are the worst, making their customers wait for five working days to elapse. People with savings

accounts, which have no overdraft facilities, have to wait up to 11 days to access the money.

Chris Eadie, deputy Banking Ombudsman, says having two clearing dates confuses many people. "After three or four days banks are prepared to assume the cheque has cleared and will allow interest to accrue on it and for the customer to draw on it. However, if the cheque bounces, the customer will have to return the money. We have had some cases where cheques are returned after a month or two. If a cheque is not going to be paid it should be back within a week; however, this does not mean it will." Mr Eadie advises people accepting a large cheque to pay £10-£16 for special clearance. This checks if the payee has the funds to honour the cheque and should clear it a day early.

If you have to transmit money to someone on the same day, you can pay to have it sent via Chaps, the central clearing system. This is often used by homebuyers on completion and costs about £20.

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while Clare Stewart examines options for maximising income in the later years

Strength through diversity

Successful financial planning is not just about preparing for good times ahead — exotic holidays, dream homes or roaring about on a Harley Davidson in your twilight years.

It also means being able to respond to the unexpected, such as a serious illness, something which can produce as much financial as physical anxiety.

A question that has been raised by a reader of *The Times* is one that may be familiar to many people. A married couple both in their early seventies are looking for advice on how to diversify their existing portfolio of investments to increase their income.

They are looking to boost their investment returns because the husband suffered a stroke earlier in the year and may now require longer-term care in a nursing home. Although his existing pension should cover most of the possible costs, the main concern is to ensure a decent income for his wife and to meet any extra unforeseen costs.

Weekend Money talked to five independent financial advisers to see what each would suggest. The couple already have a substantial investment portfolio based on blue-chip shares, which has produced good returns to date given the strength of the stock market until very recently.

Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe: "You need to start by establishing what income you need and building a portfolio around that." In addition, Mr Bolland says that it is important to consider the degree to which you want to protect your capital.

The difficulty for income seekers at the moment is that yields are relatively low but one option to consider would be to switch a proportion of the existing portfolio to fixed interest investments, with the rest in a spread of shares including higher yielding equities.

"Good quality preference shares are worth looking at," he said, "especially if they can be put into a personal equity plan. Preference shares offer a fixed return unlike ordinary shares where the dividend payout will fluctuate depending on the company's success."

Preference share holders will also be repaid ahead of ordinary shareholders in the event of the issuing company going under. Attractive preference shares he recommends include those issued by The Co-op Bank, Commercial Union and Royal & Sun Alliance, all of which are yielding about 8 per cent.

Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere: Fixed-interest investments were also on Graham Hooper's shopping list. Government bonds or gilts may not offer capital appreciation but, with the yield curve moving down at present, it could be a good opportunity to buy he says.

Corporate bonds are another option he would consider, including the Commercial Union Monthly Income Plus product which is currently offering a 7.5 per cent yield.

For investors over 65, The National Savings Pensioners Bond offers 7 per cent interest gross at present.

It pays out monthly for a five-year period and you can get your money back early, though it will incur a penalty of loss of interest.

A further area to investigate would be higher income and growth funds offering yields of around 5 per cent. Mr Hooper advises.

Mike Neumann of BEST Investment: "Property is an area sometimes overlooked by private investors in search of healthy returns, but a well-managed fund with a good portfolio and a good tenant mix is worth considering." Mr Neumann likes the look of a unit trust — Norwich Union Property, for example — where the yield is about 5.3 per cent.

Preference shares may also be useful income earners, and until 1999 will retain their relief from advanced corporation tax. One way of investing in a spread of preference shares is through a unit trust such as Thornton's Preference Share Trust, where the yield is about 7.8 per cent. "It is a strong way of adding a higher level of income," he added.

Richard Hunter of Holden Meehan: It is important that anyone looking at switching investments around understands the implications of eating into capital, says Richard Hunter.

With a good equity portfolio earning an income of about 4 per cent, taking out more than this amount for investment elsewhere will affect capital. Before transferring money into different products or other forms of investment, with their attendant charges, he recommends taking a close look at the existing blue-chip portfolio to ensure it is being managed to maximum efficiency.

"The advantage of the privately managed portfolio is its flexibility," he said. If, for example, there was a requirement for a specific amount of extra income, at the end of the tax year, the stockbroker could look at the options offered by "bed and breakfasting."

This is a commonly used means of minimising capital gains tax liabilities on investment profits, by selling shares to establish a profit up to the level of a single or joint capital gains tax allowance, and then repurchasing the same shares.

Instead of putting the same amount back into these shares, a proportion of the capital and profits could be taken as income.

He also suggests that with-profit bonds might be considered by investors who want some of their equity portfolio less exposed to the stock market's uncertainties.

Andrew Merricks, of Simpsons of Brighton, said: "In seeking to diversify investments, there is no harm in looking at gilts and corporate bonds while also ensuring personal equity plan allowances are maximised. High-income bonds can offer attractive headline rates of return but it is vital to look at the small print on the conditions governing bonus payments and the return of capital."

"Some split-capital investment trusts similarly can offer impressive returns but at the expense of capital repayment." He suggested that one option would be to switch a small part of the existing portfolio to take advantage of such geared income payments, while the rest goes on growing to replenish the capital base.

"It is also important to ensure that there is some element of capital protection for the spouse," said Mr Merricks.

One option here could be a distribution bond which includes joint life assurance. A distribution bond offers a higher yield, being based on a mix of equities, gilts and a sector such as property. Bonds such as those offered by Sun Life pay out twice a year or more, offering the opportunity to take or reinvest the income.



Born to run: Malcolm Forbes, the late US billionaire, enjoyed his twilight years astride a Harley



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The reason — in a word for which there is no native Russian equivalent — is efficiency. Starting from such a low base, Eastern Europe offers potential for dramatic improvements in efficiency, and thereby productivity. The region is also rich in natural resources. Russia alone has 40% of the world's reserves of natural gas; 25% of its coal and 30% of its aluminium and timber.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Back to the good old days

...ever so arrogantly,
[Junior Customer Adviser Consultant Executive]



From Mr D. Christian
Sir, As with Mr Radice (Rambling around - with £8,700, Letters, November 1) I dislike the pretentiousness of the "Senior Customer Adviser Consultant Executive" for some who are but functionaries devoid of initiative and discretion.
So I was delighted this week to receive stationery from the Alliance wherein the covering letter was signed in full by the dispatcher,

below which was the simple title - Clerk. Sir, I am quite excited by this and after a suitable period of restraint intend really to chance my arm and ask if there lurks in the background the answer to so many of your correspondent's problems - a Chief Clerk.
Yours faithfully,
DENIS CHRISTIAN,
The Town House,
2 Chichester Place,
Kemp Town, Brighton.

Not what the bank wants — what we want

From Mr J. Chambers
Sir, I was pleased to see (You will multifunction and like it. Weekend Money Letters, November 1) that I am not alone in objecting to banks issuing multifunction cards.
A few years ago the Jack Committee Report on Personal Banking recommended that customers should have a choice of what facilities they required, and that they should not be forced to accept multifunction cards. The only gesture that banks have made towards this is to offer to withhold the issue of a PIN.

In my case, I want a simple cashcard (which I needn't worry too much about losing) and a debit card number (for telephone transactions) but without the debit card itself (which, as Mr Pardoe points out, is too risky). I have never needed a cheque guarantee card, and to have this function added to a card means that the card cannot safely be kept with a chequebook.

The only solution seems to be to accept a multifunction card and then deface it such that the embossed numbers and unwanted symbols cannot be read, and the signature space cannot be used, while

preserving the magnetic strip for use in a cash dispenser. Can any bank offer a tidier solution?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHAMBERS,
24 Green Lane,
Tadworth, Surrey.

From Mr D. Spink
Sir, Through your columns may I say to Alan Pardoe "No Sir, you are not alone". I too have no wish to have any truck with credit cards, cashcards, Switch, PIN numbers, and the plethora of other plastic the banks keep attempting to foist on me.

I changed my bank to First Direct a couple of years ago as I thought the telephone facility was useful; the downside is that I am obliged to have a card which is also a cashcard and a Switch. While I can exercise the right not to use the cashcard by simply refusing to have a PIN number, there is no way I can remove the Switch facility.

In January next year I become entitled to the state retirement pension and I have chosen to have this paid into a Giro account run by the Alliance & Leicester as it was the only bank that I could find

that was still prepared to issue a simple cheque guarantee card though only with a £50 limit. Should they be willing to issue one with a £100 limit I would immediately close my main bank account with First Direct and move all my current banking activity to them.

Why don't banks wake up to the fact that we are not enamoured of plastic? Cost, they will cry, but I, for one, would be prepared to go back to paying low-level bank charges if they will give me the service that I, the customer, want and not what suits them.

Many of my younger friends ask in astonishment why I don't want a cashcard but my answer is always the same: security, and who the devil wants to bank in the street?
Yours faithfully,
DAVID SPINK,
66 Ryecroft Avenue, York.

From Mrs V.G. Jenkins
Sir, Mr Pardoe is not alone in his distaste for having electronic finance thrust unwanted into his wallet.

Barclays Bank recently renewed my Barclaybank cash machine card with one useable also as a debit card. There

was no prior warning of this change and with the new card came the offer of insurance in the event of its theft and misuse.

When I queried at my branch whether this was not an admission that the bank was exposing me to the risk of such fraud without first obtaining my consent to a change in the terms on which my account was operated, they merely assured me it was being done in the interest of the customer.

So I wrote to Barclays' head office in London, whose Customer Service Unit reminded me helpfully that customers were under no obligation to use the debit card facility.

Nobody at Barclays would comment on my suggestion that this issuing of unwanted electronic products was a flagrant breach of the Code of Banking Practice, but whatever their defence, I feel it is an abuse of the relationship between bank and customer. My response? Get a better bank.

Yours faithfully,
GWYNNE JENKINS,
Sandcott,
Rectory Lane,
Pulborough,
West Sussex.

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THE WEEK IN MONEY

The Abbey National became the first large lender to raise its loan rate in response to last week's interest rate increase. The Abbey National, which has 1.6 million borrowers, pushed its standard rate up by 0.25 per cent on Tuesday.
Following the Abbey's lead, on Wednesday Northern Rock announced an increase in its standard variable rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent with effect from December 1 for existing customers. Other large lenders are expected to follow suit.

□ The fall in the UK stock market over the past six weeks has wiped almost £400 million off the value of Commercial Union's shareholders' funds, the composite insurer admitted on Wednesday. Commercial Union was hit by the strength of sterling and said that operating profits would have been £50 million higher but for exchange-rate movements.

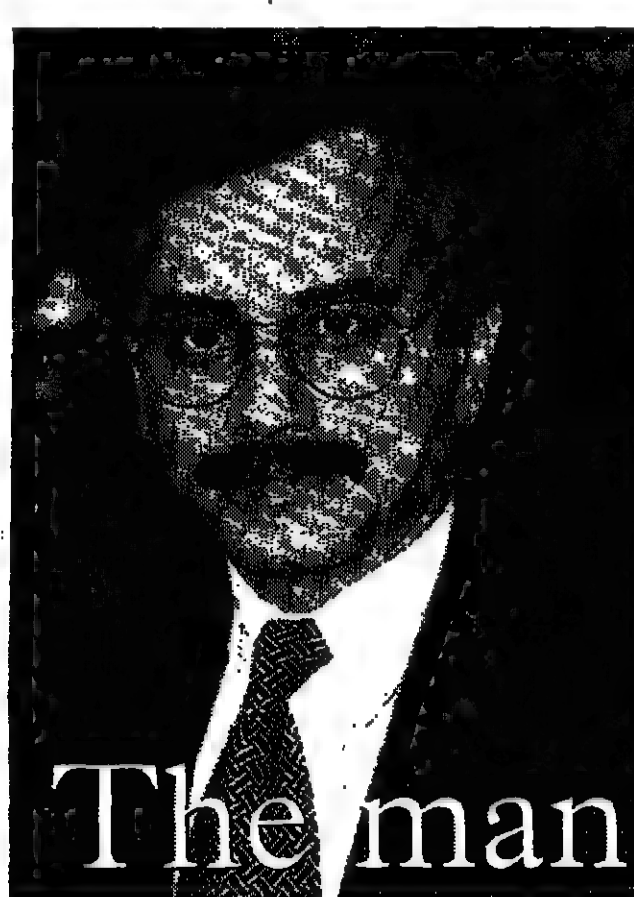
□ Dozens of investment firms could face exclusion from the Financial Services Authority, the new super-watchdog launched last month by Gordon Brown. As part of a vetting process to ensure that members of the new body meet its standards of regulation, the FSA has reserved the right to ask companies to re-apply for authorisation. Although the vast majority of the 5,000-plus investment

firms will be given automatic entry to the FSA, a few cases may be subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Attention will fall on mainly smaller firms with a poor regulatory record, such as IFAs that have failed to gain entry to the Personal Investment Authority.

□ Care First, the nursing home company that was recently troubled by boardroom disputes, is hoping that a revival in its profits and the interest of other potential bidders will defeat a £241 million takeover bid from Bupa, the health insurance and hospitals group. The company believes that increased government funding and rising occupancy of newly completed homes justify an offer nearer 200p a share, rather than the 150p that Bupa is offering.

□ Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced on Thursday that new rules are to be introduced that will make it more difficult for dissident building society members to force a society to demutualise.

In future, 50 per cent of all savers and borrowers must take part in a conversion vote. The previous turnout requirement was 20 per cent of members. This brings societies into line with quoted companies, where 50 per cent of shareholders must cast their votes for or against a bid.



The man who came first launches his first UK fund

A winning investor

Jayesh Manek's success story continues. Following his successive victories in the THE SUNDAY TIMES Fantasy Fund Manager Competitions (1994 & 1995) comes the launch of his first unit trust — the Manek Growth Fund.

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Jayesh's share picking ability has already attracted the attention of Sir John Templeton, the legendary investment guru who established the Templeton Growth Fund in 1954.

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The Manek Growth Fund and PEP

The Fund is an Authorised Unit Trust and fully PEPable, designed to make Jayesh Manek's remarkable investment skills available directly to all investors. It will target outstanding growth opportunities principally through investment in UK equities. It is intended that the Fund will not invest in unquoted companies.

The Manager is Manek Investment Management Limited. Its non-executive directors are Stanislas Yassukovich CBE, a former Deputy Chairman of the London Stock Exchange and currently Chairman of EASDAQ and The Hon Crispin Money-Coutts, Head of International Private Banking, Coutts & Co. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc are the Trustees of the Fund.

Launch offer to close 16 December

The initial offer period for the Fund will run from 26 November to 16 December 1997. A 1% launch discount will apply to lump sum investments including PEPs during this period. The minimum investment is £1,000.

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New deals prove more flexible

Competition to provide innovative home loans has been hotting up, say Gavin Lumsden and Susan Emmett

Competition among lenders to improve the flexibility they offer homebuyers has intensified since the Government's call for a better deal for borrowers two months ago.

Flexible mortgages, which allow borrowers to pay off their loans early or build up a reserve by overpaying which they can draw upon in times of need, have become increasingly popular as job insecurity has grown. Last month Virgin launched its One Account, one of a new breed of flexible loan called the current account mortgage which take the concept further by issuing borrowers with chequebooks and charge cards.

With the advent of these new "loans", borrowers are being encouraged to manage all their finances with one account and end the traditional separation of mortgage and savings. However, uncertainty as to whom the products are suitable for is being fuelled by the differing marketing strategies of lenders.

This week Kleinwort Benson announced it was upgrading its flexible mortgage into the Client Account. This is a current account mortgage by any other name with the same 8.2 per cent variable rate as Virgin One. However, both appear to be attacking different markets. Virgin aims to take on high street banks and become a lender to the general public — minimum earnings



One person who has already got the flexible message is Linda Rogoff, an interior designer, who lives in Hampstead, North London. She said: "My work is very much finance to feast. I like the freedom this mortgage gives me to vary my payments and pay off the loan early. When I took out the mortgage in August I was able to transfer my savings into the account which immediately reduced my debt. Overpaying cuts down on the interest I have to pay. Because the interest is saved and not earned I do not get taxed on it as I would in a normal savings account." Ms Rogoff is looking forward to the long-term benefits of paying off the loan early — she has not yet used the debit card or chequebook the account gives her.

£15,000 — while Kleinwort Benson is focusing on those who earn more than £50,000 a year. There are other differences. Kleinwort will only usually lend 80 per cent of the value of the property, while Virgin is prepared to lend nearer 100 per cent and will consider more generous multiples of income. But the

main difference with the Client Account for the well heeled is that they get a client manager. By encouraging the income-rich to pay off their loan early it hopes to turn them into the asset-rich who will pass their wealth to Kleinwort Benson portfolio managers.

Legal & General, meanwhile, is going

for those who like to play on the Internet. This week it launched InterPlan, a new financial planning site on the World Wide Web available to anyone with a modem and a PC. The first service on offer is the group's flexible mortgage, the Flexible Reserve launched in 1995. Not an obvious choice, but L&G admits that its customers are two and a half times more likely to have used the Internet than the average Briton. About 10,000 people visit their existing site a month, ten times more than a year ago. Most are male, under 40 years old and homeowners with an income of more than £30,000. More than 40 per cent are working in IT. Conveniently, this also fits the profile of their flexible mortgage borrowers.

With current interest rates of 7.7 per cent for loans up to 95 per cent of a property's value, Legal & General's flexible mortgage is one of the cheapest on the market. The Royal Bank of Scotland also offers 7.7 per cent for loans up to 95 per cent as well as free unemployment insurance for four years. Sainsbury's Bank charges less for smaller loans, offering a rate of 7.45 per cent for loans up to 75 per cent of property value, although loans of up to 95 per cent carry a rate of 7.9 per cent.

At the same time, Mortgage Trust, whose Current Account Mortgage was the first in the market, said it would increase the amount it would lend to borrowers in the new year from 75 to 90 per cent. Figures from Mortgage Trust show how overpayment can work. A borrower with a £75,000 25-year repayment mortgage on the lender's 8.24 per cent variable rate would pay £591 a month. Paying £50 more a month would clear the loan nearly five and a half years early, saving £26,673 in interest.

Santa Eddie's present for homebuyers

Eddie George's Christmas present to homebuyers is a rise in mortgage rates. The Governor of the Bank of England's 0.25 per cent base rate increase this month has prompted the Abbey National to raise its

standard variable rate 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent with effect from December 1, making the repayment on a £50,000 loan £8 a month more expensive.

Since the election, Abbey's mortgage rates have risen five times, giving a total increase of £42 on a £50,000 loan. The Abbey is loudly promising improved returns for its savers, but only customers in its Investor 90 account have so far been informed of the higher rates.

Although, to date, only Northern Rock has followed the Abbey's example, most other lenders will follow, as the trend in interest rates now seems irresistibly upwards. Only the Alliance & Leicester, Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, have pledged that they will not change their rates until after the festive

season. The Halifax, the number one in the mortgage market, is still considering its options. Other lenders say that the Halifax is hanging back partly because it does not want the Abbey to be seen as setting rates for the industry.

As the largest lender, the Halifax believes that it should play this all-powerful role. The Halifax may also wait until it becomes clear whether there will be a further base rate rise next month. Northern Rock cited the possibility of another base rate increase as the major reason for its decision to move its rates. It believes that the Bank of England wants to see mortgage repayments rise. If lenders delay increases, this will only make the pain worse for borrowers because the

Bank of England will order larger than anticipated base rate rises.

A Halifax spokesman refused to be drawn on the timing of any change. He said: "We are under no immediate pressure to move our rates." He conceded, however, that the bank was watching to see what changes its competitors made to their savings rates.

The increase in mortgage rates highlights the wide margins that now exist between standard variable rates and special discounted and fixed-rate loan deals. The millions who pay the standard variable rate are forced to subsidise new borrowers who are being offered fixed rates of 6.50 per cent or less.

At some lenders different standard variable rates apply.

Those who borrow through Northern Rock Direct, the bank's telephone arm, are charged a variable rate of 6.89 per cent.

Existing customers at most lenders are not automatically offered a chance to borrow at preferential rates. They are often obliged to threaten to remortgage with a rival before being allowed to take advantage of lower-rate packages.

Anyone now contemplating remortgaging to save on their monthly repayments can be assured that the amazing array of discounted deals will continue to be available for the next few weeks. Most lenders have not met their business targets for the second half of the year and so are keen to attract customers.

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Ever felt left in the dark?

With less than five months to the end of the tax year, investors are still being kept in the dark about the future of Peps and Tesses.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, announced the introduction of a new tax-efficient savings product — the individual savings account (Isa) — in last July's Budget. But although the Isa will be based on the Pep and Tessa, and is expected to replace both schemes from 1999, the Government has not revealed how existing investments will be affected.

Howard Flight, deputy chairman of Guinness Flight Hambro, the investment group, and Conservative MP for Arundel and South Downs, has attacked the Government for its tardiness in providing information crucial to making long-term investment decisions.

He said: "I think it is outrageous. Millions of people invest in these products, many have based their mortgages on Peps. Yet here we are, a few months from the end of the tax year when most investors make decisions, and we are without any guide as to what the tax environment will be."

In particular, Mr Flight believes investors should be told whether existing Peps and Tesses will retain their current tax incentives and what tax and investment allowances will apply to the Isa.

Most people in the investment industry believe that the Government will allow current Pep investors to transfer some of their existing holdings into the new Isa. Many expect a ceiling on the amount that can be transferred — probably around £100,000.

Recent speculation has sug-

Advisers and investors are outraged that details have not been issued about Isas, says Jill Insley

gested that the Government will limit tax relief on income earned within an Isa to 10 per cent. If true, this will come as a blow to those investors who rely on the 'tax-free' yields provided by income and corporate-bond Peps.

Peps currently offer full tax relief. For a higher-rate taxpayer, such a move would have reduced the income paid out over the past year on a £10,000 investment in the Jupiter Income unit trust — one of the larger income funds at £675 million — from approximately £600 gross to £553.

Martin Mullany, a director

Manchester chartered accountant, agrees. "People who have existing Peps now should continue to invest in them. But it is more important than ever to concentrate on the quality of the underlying investments, so they will continue to do well if and when the tax benefits are removed."

According to the current rules, investors can still invest £6,000 in a general Pep, and £3,000 in a single-company Pep, for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 tax years.

Mr Mullany currently recommends Credit Suisse Income and Perpetual High Income for income-seekers, and Gartmore European Select Opportunities and Henderson European Special Situations for those wanting capital growth. Mr Wicks recommends Perpetual and Schroder Peps, because both management companies offer a good range of funds that can be mixed and matched within their Peps.

Savers can also continue depositing money in Tesses — up to a maximum of £3,000 in the first year, followed by annual payments of £1,800 in the next three years and up to £600 in the fifth and final year. Likewise, people with Tesses due to mature before April 1999 can take advantage of follow-on rules.

These rules allow any capital held in a mature Tessa — up to £9,000 — to be transferred straight into a follow-on Tessa without having to build up savings from scratch again. To qualify for this tax benefit, the saver must make the

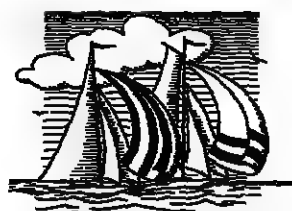
transfer within six months of the old account maturing. He must also find a new home for any interest earned in the first five years — only capital saved in the old Tessa can be moved to a new one.

Many of the better-paying Tesses are offered by the small

regional building societies, such as Shephed, which pays a flat rate of 7.85 per cent gross for both first and follow-on Tesses, and Staffordshire, which pays 7.85 per cent gross for follow-on accounts. Both these societies accept deposits from savers nationwide.

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FLEXIBILITY 62

Competition heats up for innovative home loans

WEEKEND MONEY

RISEING CRISIS 54

Why the Japanese are ringing their brokers



Patrick Collinson explains why erroneous commissions gave a nil return after 14 years

How £5,000 rose to just £5,004

Jack Gerrard, 52, a Coventry businessman, had terminal cancer diagnosed eight months ago. Despite the ordeal of a five-hour operation and extensive chemotherapy, he set about sorting out his financial affairs to guarantee the future security of his wife and eight-year-old son.

Mr Gerrard, a former lorry mechanic, built a successful business in the late 1980s manufacturing lorry suspension springs. He recalled that in 1983, when just a mechanic, he had paid a £5,000 lump sum into a pension with Sun Alliance.

He obtained a quote for the value of the policy. Fourteen years after paying Sun Alliance £5,000, he was told its value now was £5,004.30p — an increase of precisely £4.30p, and a return of less than 0.1 per cent. Even if the money had simply been left in a Halifax 90-day account, it would have grown to more than £13,000.

"I was absolutely speechless. I want the money for funeral expenses and the like. I was in shock," said Mr Gerrard, who has given up work and is confined to his bed two to three days a week.

There is no great mystery as to why Mr Gerrard's policy has performed so appallingly. It is to do with how commission can erroneously be extracted from a personal pension, how much an adviser receives and how much a life and pensions company keeps.

Mr Gerrard recalls receiving from his tax adviser at the time, a partner with McCranors, a Coventry firm of accountants, two different quotes for a pension — one based on his paying £5,000 every year (an annual premium) and one based on a one-off lump sum payment of £5,000.

The adviser came to Mr Gerrard's workshop, and while still in his blue overalls,



Jack Gerrard, left, with his brother Robert, was stunned when told the £5,000 he had invested 14 years before had become £5,004

Mr Gerrard signed the cheque for £5,000. Being self-employed and subject to irregular earnings, he says he opted for the lump-sum policy.

His adviser selected Sun Alliance. But when Sun Alliance received the policy proposal, it was marked as an annual premium policy.

Rather than paying the adviser commission of typically £250 for a lump-sum pension, Sun Alliance (it refuses to reveal exact figures) would have paid the adviser commission of about £2,500, the typical payout on a regular premium £5,000 policy. The money was duly extracted from Mr Gerrard's policy.

However, McCranors insists that Mr Gerrard opted for a regular premium policy, although it says that it has not kept records as far back as 1983.

Mike Wilson, a partner of McCranors, said: "I feel very sorry for him, but I don't know what this is all about. It would have been of no benefit for us

to do this, as the commission would be clawed back by Sun Alliance after one year when the policy lapsed. I totally refute any suggestion that we stitched up Mr Gerrard."

But if the commission payout was clawed back by Sun Alliance, why is Mr Gerrard still out of pocket? The answer is that Sun Alliance, rather than return the clawed-back commission into Mr Gerrard's policy, kept the money itself.

When contacted by Weekend Money, the recently merged Royal & Sun Alliance claimed that the commission reclaimed goes into defraying costs which would otherwise have been recouped over the full term of a regular policy. It refused to credit the clawed-back commission to Mr Gerrard and says that if he is not satisfied he can refer his case to the PIA Ombudsman.

Mr Gerrard's case has been taken up by another broker, Tony Bridgland of Bridgland Insurance Brokers in Rye, East Sussex. He firmly believes that commission clawed back by a pensions company belongs not to that company but should be credited to the policy.

He believes it is time for brokers to accept that indemnity commission — paying commission "upfront" rather than spreading it over the life of a policy — should be banned. He said: "The financial regulators get upset about small things such as what is on your business cards, yet they do nothing about huge upfront commissions."

"Taking indemnity commission is running on thin ice — you must keep your fingers crossed that clients will pay future premiums. Indeed, indemnity commission is at the root of so many of the scams that afflict the industry from time to time."

THE LESSONS FROM MR GERRARD'S CASE

■ IF YOU are subject to irregular earnings, a regular premium pension — indeed any regular premium policy — does not make sense. Roddy Kohn, of Kohn Cougar, a firm of financial advisers, who is also a board member of the Personal Investment Authority, said: "When you know your income is likely to fluctuate, you should give serious consideration to single contributions. If you do take a regular premium contract, make sure

it has waiver of premium included."

■ TAKE responsibility for your finances. Mr Gerrard would have received a notice from Sun Alliance telling him that his policy was going to lapse unless a payment was made. This would have alerted him to the fact that the policy was written on a regular rather than single-premium basis. Mr Gerrard said: "I don't remember ever receiving any letters

from Sun Alliance. Anyway, I used to send on all of my papers to my solicitor or accountant."

■ TAKE time to read the key features documents. Since 1994 financial services companies have been obliged to give buyers "key features" documents, which give details of how much commission will be paid to the adviser, and how much the company is charging for its products.

Commission maze, page 55

Concern grows on balancing act over Isas

There is growing concern that the Government may be unable to keep its pledges to both the low-paid and Pep investors if it is to get the individual savings account (Isa) off the ground (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The Isa, central to Government's plans to simplify and broaden the appeal of savings, will supersede the Pep and Tessa tax-free investment schemes, in 1999. Gordon Brown, when announcing the Isa in July, promised that he would aim to help people on low incomes to get on the savings wagon while building on the success of Peps and Tessas.

However, fears are rising that the Government may have to choose one option over the other. Maintaining tax reliefs for existing holders of Peps and Tessas will leave little scope to bring a new wave of savers in, it is argued, while redirecting tax relief to encourage new savers, as Labour promised to do in

Opposition, will mean abandoning existing investors. These fears were heightened this week when the Association of Friendly Societies (AFS) published its proposals for the Isa. The AFS, unlike other bodies putting ideas to the Revenue, called for low limits on Isa investments. It envisages two schemes. Savers could put up to £600 a year into scheme A, matched by employers, but would get a 25 per cent bonus taking the contribution to £750. Scheme B would have a £3,000 annual ceiling and a £30,000 lifetime maximum. Unlike Peps, there would be no tax relief on income from investments, though it would roll up free of capital gains tax.

This proposal runs counter to a leaked report that the Revenue was thinking of an Isa with a £10,000 annual limit (a combination of the levels for Peps and Tessas) and an undefined lifetime maximum.

Money in an Isa would roll up free of capital gains tax and have 10 per cent income tax relief. A lifetime limit could disadvantage people who have built up substantial sums in Peps and Tessas. The low limits pro-

posed by the AFS alarm Pep managers, who say equity-based Isas would be impractical for such small sums. However, Marion Poole, of the AFS, said: "We took the Government at its word when it said it wanted to attract low-income people who have lost the habit of saving. A £10,000 ceiling fails that task. Many people would see that figure and assume the Isa is not for them. A lot of tax relief at the moment is going to middle-class people already saving."

Tom King, of Standard Life, said Isas should be aimed at the 14 million wage-earners who cannot afford to save, rather than the seven million with Peps and Tessas. He rates the twin aims of keeping Pep people and attracting low-income people as "almost irreconcilable". Ministers should co-ordinate work on the Isa with their Stakeholder Pension initiative, he said.

In the dark, page 63

Tesco's savers lose interest

By Gavin Lumsden

Tesco's foray into financial services goes from bad to worse. This week it emerged that the supermarket's personal finance venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland is offering compensation payments to frustrated savers who have spent weeks trying to open an account or get through on the new bank's helpline.

One woman in Cheshire has been offered £100 by Tesco on top of a promise to backdate interest to September 25, the date when she first applied for the Instant Savings Account.

Tesco refused to reveal how much it was paying in compensation and interest but said only 1 per cent of customers had problems. It has been overwhelmed by the 150,000 applications it received in just four weeks for the account, which pays 6.5 per cent gross interest and offers 1,000 points on the store's Clubcard until the year end.

Three weeks ago it said it was hiring new staff to cope with the demand. However, inexperienced personnel have done nothing to inspire confidence. After failing to get through on the 0345 104010 helpline, the woman rang Royal Bank of Scotland, Tesco's partner in the venture, in Glasgow.

Her first call confirmed that the account had been opened on October 10. When, last week, she had still not received any details for it, let alone a cashpoint card, she rang again, only to be told, by someone new, that she had been lied to before and that her cheque for £401.95 had been lost. Despite the



Four-minute warning: James Sugden tried to cancel but could not get through

compensation offer she still does not know if her account has been opened, or if a direct debit from her NatWest account is going ahead. "For £400 I'm not going to cut my throat but I am very annoyed. What makes it worse is that my husband applied for Sainsbury's instant-access account and it took just seven days to come through."

James Sugden, a former electronics engineer in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, has achieved slightly more success, but an equal amount of aggravation with Tesco Personal Finance. He finally received his cashcard

and account details weeks after applying. Ironically, his inability to get through may keep him a Tesco customer. He has spent the past few weeks trying to cancel the account, using the 0345 104010 number. "It is the most infuriating phone system. Last week I blew my top after I spent 4 minutes 40 seconds listening to a message thanking me for my patience."

Much of the problem lies with the few options on Tesco's automated helpline menu. Option 2 deals with Clubcard Plus inquiries and loans and savings.

Tesco payoff, page 22

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THE TIMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 1997

Romance that lit Britain's hearts

Alan Hamilton explains how
a nation ravaged by austerity
greeted the fairytale marriage

On hearing the news, in the summer of 1947, that Princess Elizabeth had become engaged to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, the Camden Town Number One branch of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers wrote immediately and directly to George VI.

The trades unionists of north London were less than overjoyed at the announcement. "Any banqueting and display of wealth at your daughter's wedding will be an insult to the British people at the present time, and we would consider that you would be well advised to order a very quiet wedding in keeping with the times."

Camden's carpenters had a more specific concern on their minds. "May we also remind you that should you declare the wedding day a public holiday you will have a word before-hand with the London Master Builders' Association to ensure we are paid for it."

There can rarely have been a worse time for a display of conspicuous consumption than the closing months of 1947. A multimillion dollar American loan had run out and the nation was flat broke. Everything was in such short supply that people looked wistfully to the war years as a time of relative plenty; there was no petrol for pleasure motoring, foreign holidays were banned, the potato ration was cut to 3lb per person a week, and bacon to 1oz.

Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor, in a phrase that would be echoed in another context 45

years later, described 1947 as his *annus horribilis*.

But in such grim and joyless times, what the people really wanted was a party, or what the old phrasemaker Churchill called "a flash of colour on the hard road we have to travel". There was a yearning for fun, for even a tiny taste of glamour, for the promise of a brighter world to come — pleasures there had been precious little of for a decade.

Clement Attlee's Labour Cabinet embraced the idea with enthusiasm and relatively little argument — provided, of course, that it was on the cheap. Dalton had to reassure the Commons that the only cost to the taxpayer would be the decorations in Whitehall and outside Buckingham Palace, and all the other expenses would be borne by the King through the Civil List.

For a Labour government with its back to the wall, a royal wedding was the perfect diversion, and well they knew it. Tony Blair did not invent the concept of a People's Princess when he so described the late Diana, Princess of Wales; Attlee's Cabinet thought of it first.

The Royal Family in 1947 enjoyed exceptionally high standing, having fully recovered from the brief trauma of the abdication crisis in 1936. George VI had not only proved himself the valiant and much-loved figurehead of a nation at war, he and his wife and daughters appeared to embody

Continued on page 2



The way they were: a radiant Princess Elizabeth and the newly created Duke of Edinburgh pose for the official wedding day picture in the Throne Room at Buckingham Palace

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364—THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS—Nov. 22, 1947

CHOSEN AS ATTENDANTS ON H.R.H.
RECENT PORTRAITS OF THE BRIDESMAIDS;PRINCESS ELIZABETH AT HER WEDDING:
THE ROYAL PAGES, AND LADIES-IN-WAITING.

Nov. 22, 1947—THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS—365



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.



LADY CAROLINE MONTAGU DOUGLAS SCOTT, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.



PRINCESS ELIZABETH AT HER WEDDING: THE ROYAL PAGES, AND LADIES-IN-WAITING.



LADY MARY CAMBRIDGE, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.



LADY MARGARET ELPHINSTONE, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.



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LADY MARGARET ELPHINSTONE, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.



LADY MARY CAMBRIDGE, BRIDESMAID AT THE WEDDING OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, AND HIS BRIDE AND CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE OF BATH.

The attendants 50 years on



Left to right: Princess Alexandra, Prince Michael of Kent, Lady Caroline Montagu Douglas Scott (now Lady Gilmour), Diana Bowes Lyon (later Mrs Peter Somervell, died 1986), Prince William of Gloucester (killed in an air crash in 1972), Lady Pamela Mountbatten (now Hicks), Princess Margaret and Lady Margaret Egerton (now Colville).

Princess Alexandra: born on Christmas Day 1936. Daughter of Prince George, Duke of Kent, who died in an air crash in 1942. Her mother, Princess Marina of Greece, was a cousin of Prince Philip. Two children: James Ogilvy, who was recently mauled by a shark while swimming on holiday in Florida, and Marina Mowatt, who has divorced her husband, photographer Paul Mowatt. Lives with husband, Sir Angus Ogilvy, in Richmond Park. Prince Michael of Kent: born 1942. Cousin of the Queen. Middle name Franklin. D. Roosevelt. Married Marie Christine von Reibnitz in 1978. Two children. Lady Carolyn Montagu Douglas Scott: born 1927. Close friend of Princess Margaret. Sister of the Duke of Buccleuch. Married July 1951 to Ian, Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar. Five children. Diana Bowes Lyon: born 1923 with the full name Diana Cressida Mildred Bowes Lyon. Daughter of John Bowes Lyon, elder brother of the Queen Mother. Two of her sisters, Nerissa and Katherine, were mentally retarded and institutionalised at a home in

Surrey. Nerissa died but Katherine is still at the home. Married Peter Somervell, son of industrialist Sir Arnold Somervell, in 1960. One child, Katherine. Died in 1986. Prince William of Gloucester: born 1941. Killed in a flying accident at the Goodyear Air Race near Wolverhampton on August 28, 1972. Never married, despite being something of a ladies' man. Lady Mary Cambridge: born 1924.

Only child of the last Marquess of Cambridge, formerly Prince George of Teck. Married Peter Whitley, son of a former Chief Justice of Uganda, in November 1951. Two children. A favourite in royal circles: one of the people you never recognise at the end of the row on the balcony at the Palace. Lady Elizabeth Mary Lambart: born 1924. Elder daughter of Field Marshal the Earl of Cavan, a chief

of staff to the Duke of York, the Queen's father. Married July 1949 to Mark Longman, of the eponymous publishers, who died in 1972. Three daughters: Caroline, an early escort of Prince Charles, Jane and Emma. Lives near Moreton-in-Marsh, in Gloucestershire. Lady Margaret Egerton: born 1918. Known as Meg. Daughter of the Earl of Ellesmere and sister of the Duke of Sutherland. Brought

up at Bridgewater House, which was the largest private non-royal residence in London. Because of death duties, the house was sold, to the British Oxygen Company. First lady-in-waiting to Princess Elizabeth. In 1948, married the late Sir John Colville, private secretary to Princess Elizabeth, and later to Winston Churchill. Two sons and a daughter. Lady Margaret is Lady-in-waiting to the Queen Mother.

Her sister, Lady Alice Egerton, resigned as Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen in 1961 and committed suicide in 1977. Lady Pamela Mountbatten: born 1929. Younger daughter of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Lady-in-waiting to Princess Elizabeth on the trip to Kenya when she heard that her father, George VI, had died. Married David Hicks, an interior designer, in 1960. One son

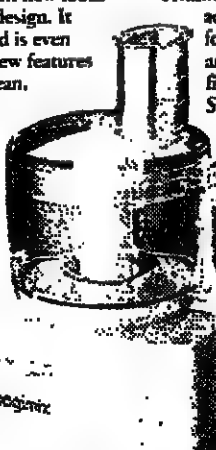
and two daughters — one, India, is a model and was a bridesmaid at the Prince of Wales's wedding. India gave birth this year to a child, Felix, who lives with his father, David Filt-Wood.

Lady Margaret Seymour: born 1918. Mother was a daughter of the first Duke of Westminster. Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Elizabeth from 1947 to 1952, later married a Woman of the Bedchamber. Married Sir Philip Hay, private secretary to Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, in 1948. Three sons. Died 1975. Hon Margaret Elphinstone: born 1925. Daughter of the 16th Lord Elphinstone and Lady Mary Bowes Lyon, elder sister of the Queen Mother. Married in 1950 to Denis Rhodes, grandson of the 5th Lord Plunket, who died in 1981. Two sons and two daughters. Became Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen Mother. Lives in garden house in Windsor Great Park. Her son Simon, a page of honour to the Queen, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey in 1975 to a charge of causing £92,000 damage by setting fire to his house at Harrow School. He was later discharged.

MICHAEL RHODES

The best has just got better

Magimix introduces the 3100. This compact workhorse combines brilliant new looks with improved design. It works better and is even easier to use. New features include: easy clean, dishwasher safe bowl in white crystal; new easy fit lid; a new simpler to use mini processor ideal for small quantities and new accessories including a new dough blade, and a geared egg whisk.



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Continued from page 1 and cherish the highest virtues of family life, aided by chocolate-box vignettes of the little Princesses, by a former nanny, Crawfie, in a women's weekly magazine. And there had been a first-division royal wedding since Bertie married Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in 1923, Edward VIII having proved a complete washout on that score. Although there was a brief and dramatic increase in the divorce rate in 1947 — caused no doubt by a rush to untangle hasty and unwise wartime pairings — marriage was still a valued institution. More than 400,000 couples in England and Wales wed in that year, and more than a quarter of them have reached their golden anniversary. Today, fewer than 300,000 couples marry each year, and barely one-tenth are likely to achieve their half-century.

The impending marriage of the Heiress Presumptive to an uncomplicated and more or

less unforeign prince was a gift to the government. Here was a chance to show that a Labour administration intent on a programme of nationalisation and a huge social revolution could still throw a decent old-fashioned royal

bash, even in the depths of austerity. Although Princess Elizabeth had had doubts about putting on a big show in such hard times, her father was determined that the wedding should be a grand occasion, even if he had to pay for most of it himself. Atlee was a willing ally, but a much more unlikely one was Aneurin Bevan, a man of the people if ever there was one. "So long as Britain has one, we ought never to lower the standards of the monarchy," he declared, giving his approval to an extra allowance of clothing coupons for

the bride. But then, as now, there were backwoodsmen intent on reining in the enthusiasms of the party leadership. Willie Gallagher, the Communist MP and gritty voice of the Fife coalfields, questioned not only the supposed "lavish expenditure" on the wedding, but the bridegroom's connections with the Greek throne. He was not alone; a group of backbench Labour MPs wrote a letter of protest to the Chief Whip about the expenditure. They were off-target. Very little public

money was involved. The real argument was over the Civil List allowance for Princess Elizabeth and her husband. Chancellor Dalton took a hard line, being the renegade anti-monarchist son of Canon Dalton, tutor to the young George V. He was largely a lone voice: there were even fewer true

republicans in the 1947 Labour Cabinet than at present. By chance, Dalton was forced to resign shortly before the wedding over an unrelated Budget leak. He was replaced by the more sympathetic Sir Stafford Cripps, who ensured that Parliament not only voted an annual allowance of £50,000 for the Heiress Presumptive and £10,000 for her consort, but a further £50,000 to renovate Clarence House as their marital home.

Apart from the cost, the wedding preparations stirred a manic xenophobia in the darker corners of Westminster. All right, they moaned, we know the silk for the wedding dress has been woven in Dunfermline, but where did the silkworms come from? They had better not be Italian or Japanese, or bear the nationality of any other recent enemy. The government reassured the doubters that the worms were, in fact, from the friendly Nationalist China of Chiang Kai-shek.

The doubters and carpers proved to be entirely out of step with the public mood. The government had decided that a full-blown public holiday would be inappropriate, but it compromised by giving schoolchildren the day off.

Holiday or no, the public flocked to London in their hundreds of thousands. They wanted a glimpse of that wedding dress, made by Hartnell at a cost of £1,200 and 300 clothing coupons.

The passion for fashion had been reawakened that

summer by Dior launching the New Look in Paris (see Shopping, page 5) and Hartnell managed to provide the bride with a full trousseau, including going-away outfit he just happened to find a batch of prewar silk in an old cupboard in his workrooms.

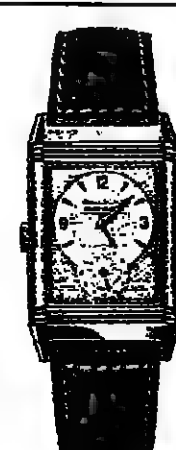
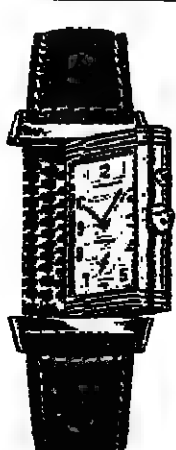
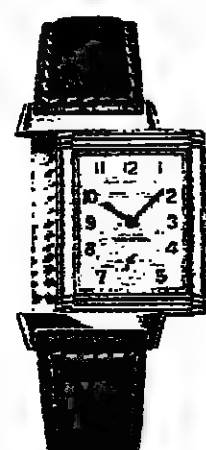
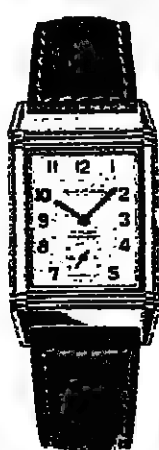
Decades later royal marriages have developed a tendency to go wrong. But there must be a lesson in the fact that a true love match, made in a time of the utmost adversity, is the one that has endured.

ANNIVERSARY TV AND RADIO

■ Tomorrow: BBC1 2.35pm. *Married for 50 years*. Eight couples married on the same day as the Queen share the secrets of their marriages.

■ Thursday, Nov 20: BBC1, 10.35am. Also on Radio 4 (LW) from 10.45am. *The Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary*. Service of Thanksgiving from Westminster Abbey, including the Royal Family and couples sharing the anniversary. Followed by the celebration lunch at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

ANOTHER TIME,
ANOTHER FACE.
REVERSO DUO.



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Schoolboy adv

A fairytale come to life

Elizabeth Longford
recalls the excitement
of a special day that
symbolised the end of
wartime and the start
of a brave new era

I woke up very early on the morning of November 20, 1947, but not for the same reason as Princess Elizabeth probably did. I let Kevin cry for a minute or two as I wondered sleepily whether our treasured Princess would be in the same boat as me this time next year. (And sure enough she was — Prince Charles would be born on November 14, 1948.) Then I imagined Bobo MacDonald, Lilibet's friend and dresser from childhood days, bringing the Princess her early morning tea — and I rose to give Kevin his breakfast. He was just 19 days old, having been born on November 1, All Saints Day.

I cannot say it was anything but a grey day as we drove from Hampstead on that wedding morning to take our allotted seats in Westminster Abbey. This privilege was due to Frank's being minister in charge of Germany in Clement Attlee's postwar Labour Government.

London was notably smogger than Hampstead, but the crowds gathered in Parliament Square and around the Abbey did not mind. Most of them seemed to be young and had grown up in a shabby wartime world, where fuel and soap were rationed — they still were in 1947 — and nobody was worried about lying on sooty ground in an old sleeping bag. There were no Clean Air Acts then.

One of the ravishing things about this royal wedding was the way that our eyes were introduced again to swaths of shimmering silk, dazzling waterfalls of satin and glittering diamonds and pearls that had spent their war years in the bank. We were more used to seeing Princess Elizabeth in a forage cap than a tiara. The change was heaven.

As for her pearls, she was wearing them around her lovely neck — but only just. We did not know, at the time, of course, that the pearls had accidentally been left at St James's Palace, along with the other wedding presents on display in aid of charity.

A 16-year-old schoolgirl had got the day off from school. It was not a national holiday because Attlee said the swartown country could not afford one, and had arrived at 7am outside the Great West Door of the Abbey to share in the spectacle.

Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten was to enter by the Poet's Corner door and, indeed, he was as poet-looking as any of the war poets to be commemorated there. However, it was the fairy princess the schoolgirl and her thousands of companions were breathlessly waiting to see. People had not much believed in fairies during the war — more in demons — and here was a royal princess suddenly reappearing in the fullest outpouring of magic: glass coach, Household Cavalry, cloth of gold, velvet, fur, fanfares — the lot.

It was the Princess's smile that did it. The schoolgirl has grown up to become a close friend of mine and has never tired of describing that smile. "You see, it came from inside. It was sheer radiance, because the Princess was so happy. She did not put on a smile or even give a smile. It was



Princess Elizabeth in a camera portrait by Dorothy Wilding. "Her smile came from the inside... an expression of her magical happiness"

there, simply part of her, the expression of her magical happiness."

Those of us inside the Abbey had a different vision, but a vision nonetheless. Princess Elizabeth looked marvellously calm as she moved smoothly up the aisle on her father's arm. He and his daughter were perfectly matched in their walk, as in their ideals. As Clement Churchill, Winston's wife, said: "It was a shining marvel." We did not know at the time what the King was thinking at this most poignant moment in his life. We know now, because a letter he wrote to Princess Elizabeth on her honeymoon has been published.

His main theme was the charmed circle of the Royal Family: "Us four",

as he described it. This foursome, this "firm", as the King also liked to call the royal quartet, consisted of George VI himself, his wife Queen Elizabeth and their two daughters Elizabeth and Margaret Rose.

To these four could of course be made additions "at suitable moments". Philip being the first of these additions. That Philip was "suitable" — in fact, necessary and more than welcome — was conveyed to the doting father by the way his daughter made her responses. She said: "I will" with such conviction. It was then that he admitted being absolutely sure that the whole thing was "all right" — being the very highest praise from

George VI: when Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon accepted his proposal of marriage, he telegraphed his parents, "All right, Bertie."

I was struck at the time by the concerted — and successful — effort to balance the element of royalty and ordinary humanity at this celebrated wedding. As the archbishop was eager to point out, the service was the same as would be heard in any village church up and down the land.

In a sense, the wedding was already tackling the crucial problem that besets the modern monarchy: how to be human and superhuman at one and the same time. Humanity's natural desire is always for two incompatible benefits: to be at once mystical and normal, grandiose and

simple, complex and natural, different and the same, mysterious yet open.

It is said that so many who helped to make the Queen's wedding the unique event it was have passed on — her father, Lord Mountbatten, Bobo MacDonald, even Susan the corgi who shared the Princess's hot-water bottle in the honeymoon going-away carriage — but it is glorious that her mother is as irresistible as ever, and her husband as brilliant.

We can do not better than repeat what we all shouted at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, also in Westminster Abbey: "Vivat Regina" and thank God for the blessings of a 50-year marriage that has been "all right" and so much, much more.



The cake

OF THE 12 official wedding cakes presented to Princess Elizabeth on her marriage, that made by McVities and Price Ltd (above) at the Harlesden Factory was selected to be cut by Her Royal Highness at the reception at Buckingham Palace. The ingredients were given as a gift by the Girl Guides of Australia and shipped to England.

Preparation of the cake by three craftsmen took five weeks, and it took nearly ten hours to bake. The four tiers, depicting various armorial bearings, measured 9ft and weighed 500lb. As well as being distributed among the wedding guests, portions were given to the 15 hospitals, schools and charities of which Princess Elizabeth was then patron or president. A replica was later put on display at the Kensington store of Derry & Toms.

ELIZABETH DE WINTON

Schoolboy adventure of sleeping in the Mall

Philip Howard highlights school days at the time of the wedding

The Queen's wedding was not just half a century ago, it really was in another country. We children had not only been let out of school, but even excused prep. We camped out all night on the Mall — north side, just down from the Victoria Monument, under coarse grey ARP (air-raid precautions) blankets herned in red. Under the supervision of one heavy-duty adult per child, wrapped up in our heavy-duty, cut-down overcoats with multiple scarves, stockings and mittens, we were provisioned with marmite and jam sandwiches, lemonade and vacuum flasks of saccharine tea. The air was cold and damp.

But in that vanished world, when bedtime came strictly at 7 o'clock, with cocoa at weekends, after a minimum of two hours' prep, it was a big adventure. We had never been allowed to sleep out in the open before, except in the Anderson air-raid shelter, which stank of clay and claustrophobia.

The untidy rows of sleepers behind the crush-barriers were as indomitable as the Londoners camping in the Tube whom Henry Moore sketched during the Blitz. But we were laughing and joking all night, just like Hollywood's image of stereotypical Londoners in *Mary Poppins* or *101 Dalmatians*.

And from dawn at seven, there was the bustle of break-

fast, and the fascinatingly alien customs of other families at reveille on getting up, and troops and police and cleaners marching hither and yon.

Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, who had just been made Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, had come down to his old school and mine as guest of honour for speech day. As head boy, I had to make the speech of welcome to him. As a consequence, I have been twitchy about making an exhibition of myself in public ever since. But even though he was a sort of Greeko-Danish foreigner marrying Our Princess, and had then gone on to Gordonstoun, because he was a Cheesemite (Old Boy who had survived the Spartan rigours of Cheam School) and had then served in the Royal Navy, we thought of him almost as one of us.

Because of over-excitement and lack of sleep, the morning passed in a daze of marching, and craning and asking, "Who is that?" When, at the first climax, the Household Cavalry came past, they halted temporarily opposite our camp and one of the horses deposited a steaming mound. Children's giggles were instantly repressed by grown-up glares. I cannot remember what we binned did to relieve ourselves. There must have been makeshift arrangements in Green Park. That generation still queues patiently, queue-barging was regarded



The stuff of every schoolchild's royal wedding scrapbook

as a crime as bad as spivvory on the black market.

And when the bells rang, and Elizabeth and Philip rode back down the Mall in their Cinderella carriage, we waved our Union Jacks, and shrieked and believed that she caught our eye and waved directly to us. Never had we seen such carriages and cars, such bands and glitter. And the hats, of the ladies as well as those Imperial male peacocks. Later we surmised and waved to them on the balcony. And we believed, by osmosis from

the adults, that a bright new world was replacing the grey realities of war and rationing. You must remember that we were very young, even for our age. With our Ration Book coupons, we were allowed to buy a quarter-pound of sweets a week. I used to save them up until Saturday, when we had games, early prep, and then occasionally a black-and-white film. Ever since, in spite of subsequent evidence to the contrary, I have thought that Will Hay comedies were sick-makingly funny and that pep-

permit lumps are the most delicious food invented on this side of Paradise.

Our generation of war children was hardened by rationing. We still gobbie our food and wipe our plates clean, because we had drummed into us from our babyhood to "remember the poor starving children of India". When our parents brought back from America the first bananas we had seen, my sister and brother were so excited that they tried to eat them with the skins on. And, like Tom Sawyer, when we eat an apple, there ain't-a-going to be no core.

Throughout the war we had to Dig for Victory in our garden patches, growing radishes and lettuce to supplement our diet of powdered egg, black treacle (standing in for sugar) and porridge that mysteriously contrived to be both runny and lumpy.

The only day's menu that was literally inedible was Thursday's: fish pie and suet pudding (known as "dead baby"). The fish was rank and bony. The pudding had a thick skin of slime concealing dried dates and other nameless things. Not to finish both was a whacking offence.

Those of us who could not keep the food down used to shovel it into our spongebags. Then, before afternoon school started, we removed a square from the middle of the parquet floor in the assembly room/chapel and surrepti-

tiously emptied out bags into the black below.

Our favourite toys were homemade — HMS Nelson and other battleships which we sailed on the horsepond. In the shrubbery of Cheam we played SS versus FFI, the French Resistance, and collected the strips of metal foil dropped by bombers to confuse the radar. On rainy days,

we amused ourselves by reading Arthur Mee's *Children's Encyclopaedia*, Henry Swallows and Amazons, Bevis, the Story of a Boy, Ben Hur, The Golden Treasury and anything that turned a page. Just William, when nobody was looking. We learnt by heart from an early age *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, *Abou Ben Adhem* and other improving and "safe" poetry.

On Sundays at school we went for dry weather or wet weather walks in crocodile. We played Monopoly, Totopoly or L'Attaque in any free time. A slide show of foreign parts on the epidiascope or touring players performing *Moliere* in stiff English accents were a treat. Harvest time, with stooking and the binder and festival teas in the field were happiness. And the wedding of the Princess was a glittering symbol that a new, better world was just around the corner.

And so it was, though perhaps not in quite the ways that we children, in our innocence, expected.

To us he
was a sort
of Greeko-
Danish
foreigner

Citric
fruit
and nuts
with a layer of
honeycomb
in the background
followed after a moment by
vanilla and caramel.
Full bodied,
even and creamy, with a
subdued sweet flavour
at the outset and
a light and dry
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GLENMORANGIE WOOD FINISHES
For those who nose.

Haute couture just like mother used to make

No 14 Savile Row is, of course, my favourite shop. It houses my family. My mother was what was then called a court dressmaker, so my first adult friends were the staff. When, out of the blue, I was offered the post of manager of Lachasse in Farm Street I jumped at it. My mother telephoned me that first evening. "Mother," I said, "it was like going home."

Although my mother retired in 1914, she liked to return to see her old dressmaking friends and I was often taken along. I remember the building well. Court dressmakers were usually housed in what had been private houses, as a shop window was not considered necessary. There was a basement — originally the kitchen — which became the canteen, where there was a stream of tea-drinkers and gossip.

During the war, I had a lot of time to think about postwar plans. I was determined to have my own business and to establish it in an elegant London house similar to those my mother had taken me to. No 14 Savile Row was in a bad state, because of bomb damage, but we got it for a cheap rent and immediately started to tidy it up.

A building with five storeys was ideal. In the basement was the kitchen/canteen, which remained until some years later, when a finance director said that it was an extravagance and turned it into what is still a stockroom. The real selling point of the house for me was the beautiful proportions of the first-floor drawing room, which was to become, and still is, our showroom.

The house was built in 1735 by Lord Burlington, but he never owned it: it had a lease from the Pollen Estates, a city firm that is still my landlord. I had no capital with which to start a business, but various friends came forward. Virginia Jersey, also known as Virginia Cherrill in Charlie Chaplin's *City Lights*, lent me £2,000. My

HARDY AMIES ON HIS FAVOURITE SHOP



Hardy Amies in soldier's uniform

stepmother gave me £10,000. Agnes Linton, the daughter of a tweed weaver in Cumberland, liked me and liked what I did with her wool, so she helped, as did other loyal friends.

Within weeks of opening in January 1946, we had gathered a staff of 200. In those days a fitter, the head of the workroom, had about 20 workers under her. All were loyal to the fitter, and if she moved to another house they moved, too. The fitters who came to me had known me at Lachasse or at Worth, a house with which I was associated when I was working at the War Office.

We were quickly visited by foreign buyers — particularly Americans and Canadians who were hungry for new ideas. There was great excitement among them in the next year, 1947, when Dior brought out the *New Look*, although it was no surprise to us — we were already showing corseted bodices.

It was not only the buyers who visited. The test of success of a couture shop is the

strength of the output of the workrooms, and in the early days we were flooded by customers who had been deprived of new dresses during the war. Even today, in our 51st year, I can honestly say that there has never been a moment when a fitter has said: "Please can I have some work?" It has always been a battle to get the dress or suit finished in time.

I do not draw at all well (I envisage a finished dress working for its living at a party, or at a wedding, or coming down a staircase), and so a little over 40 years ago I hired a young man called Ken Fleetwood, who was highly praised by the head of St Martin's School of Design. I loved his drawings and we started an era of close collaboration. Mostly, we would go away to a hotel (the Palace at Torquay was a favourite) and I would say to Ken "Draw this" and explain what I had in mind. After that, it was down to the tailor.

Our overseas business grew — particularly in Japan. The Japanese admired the clothes which fitted into the lives of the English upper classes, and orders came quickly, which meant a lot of sketches were required. We needed another hand in the studios and Jon Moore, who was just leaving art school and who had done a wonderful design for a fur coat, joined us. Seventeen years later, he is still with us as design director, replacing Ken when he fell mortally ill last year.

No 14 Savile Row still has the facade it had in 1735. Many of the other houses in the Row now have shop windows, but I am happy to keep ours as it is. We have no need to change, as we do not have any passing trade.

The exterior of the house may not have changed, but my contacts in the world of couture have. In the 1940s, we courtiers joined together to establish the Incorporated Society of Fashion Designers. We were ten. Now I am the only one left. That is why I cherish my shop and its staff.



In need of window dressing: No 14 Savile Row as it was before Hardy Amies, the couturier, opened his shop there

High hopes in hard times

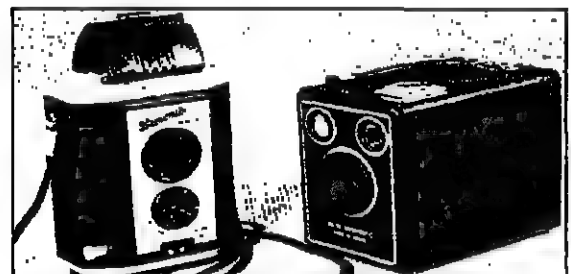
GADGETS

MOST cameras at affordable prices in 1947 were "point and hope" devices — the viewfinders were so small you could never be sure what you were taking. Then Kodak came up with the Brownie Reflex that threw a decently visible image on to the frosted "preview" screen. For the first time what you saw was what you got.

First seen at the *Britain Can Make It* exhibition, it had a "smooth working plunger-type" shutter release, the body was made from plastic and it took 12 pictures on Kodak 127 film. However, most were earmarked for the US.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Brownie Reflex camera, £3/11/8d including purchase tax of £1/11/8d from Kodak Ltd; leather Ever-Ready case extra.



Kodak Brownie Reflex: remarkable breakthrough

AUSTERITY ARTEFACTS

In 1947 the British consumer was in a frustrating position. Only the year before, the popular *Britain Can Make It* exhibition had offered a tantalising glimpse of home manufacturing potential. Yet with the change from war to peacetime production, limited supplies of raw materials and a shortage of labour, British industry had little hope of delivering the goods. Catherine Mortuary writes.

The high street and the home bore no relation to the simulated domestic settings of trade shows, full of light, colour and time-saving appliances. Electrical products were sought after, vacuum cleaners cost £7, radios often well over £20 — but these were beyond the reach of many.

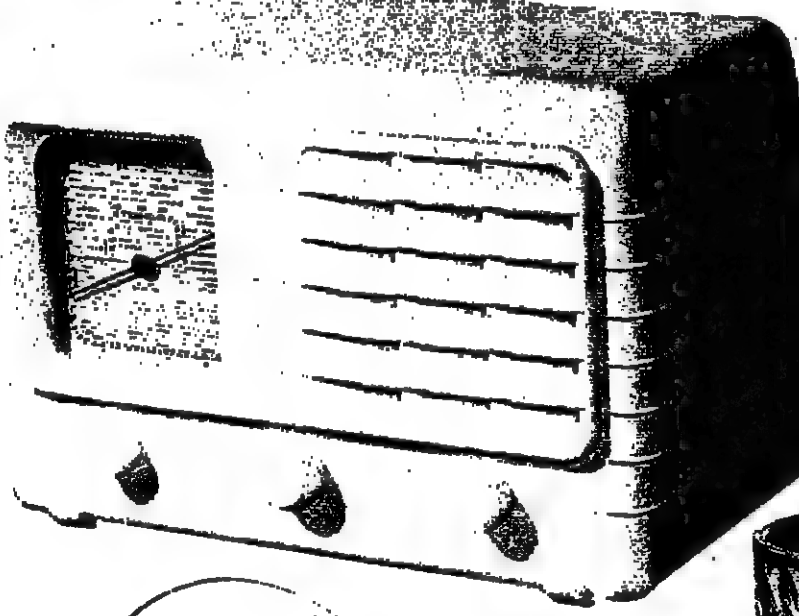
As well as high prices, the housewife of 1947 experienced queues and acute shortages.

Staple foodstuffs and clothing required points and coupons, bread was rationed for the first time in 1946 and even potatoes by the end of 1947. Feeding and clothing a family needed careful juggling, with the average male manual worker earning just over £26 a month.

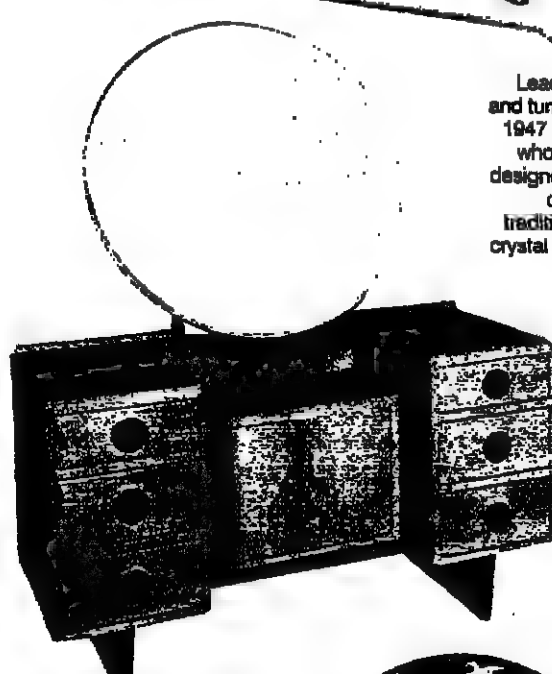
During the war the Utility scheme was introduced to standardise the production of durable, value-for-money furniture, clothing and household goods, avoiding the unnecessary use of materials and labour. Initially, new designs and those whose homes had been bombed were given priority, but in 1947 the scheme was still going strong. The high cost of new "unit-free" furniture (a three-piece suite at 60 guineas) led to a renewed interest in Victorian pieces. Contemporary furniture in unconventional materials such as aluminium and plastic was still at prototype stage. These new shapes and colours enjoyed mass appeal with the Festival of Britain in 1951.

The first Ideal Home exhibition since 1939 was put on in 1947 and Dior's "New Look" was launched. After a severe winter and harsh coal shortages, the extravaganzas on display seemed remote. Continuing austerity meant that luxuries advertised by manufacturers stayed on the shelves, if not on the drawing board, for a good few years to come. But as one commentator put it: "By now we know what kind of equipment we would install in our ideal home, although it may be a long time before we get it."

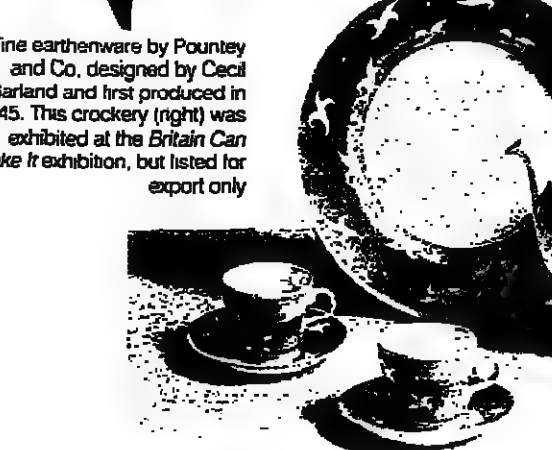
● The writer is curator of the Design Council archive



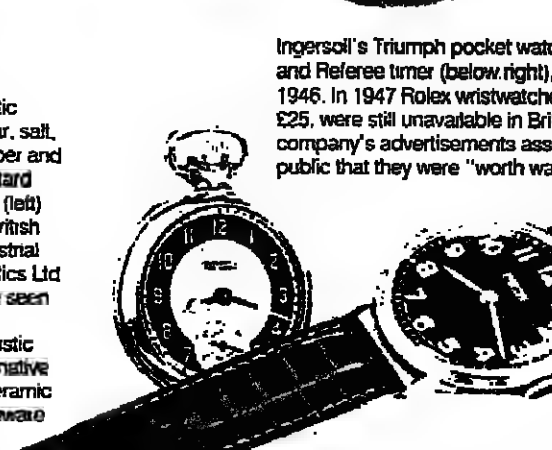
Ultra Radio by Ultra Electric, "a miracle of compact precision", £15 plus £3 4s 8d purchase tax. Curry's, which had 200 branches, urged customers to "make your home the one bright spot in an otherwise bleak world"



Lead crystal decanter and tumbler produced in 1947 by Webb Corbett, who employed young designers and produced contemporary and traditional items. British crystal had a guaranteed market overseas



Fine earthenware by Pountney and Co., designed by Cecil Garland and first produced in 1945. This crockery (right) was exhibited at the *Britain Can Make It* exhibition, but listed for export only

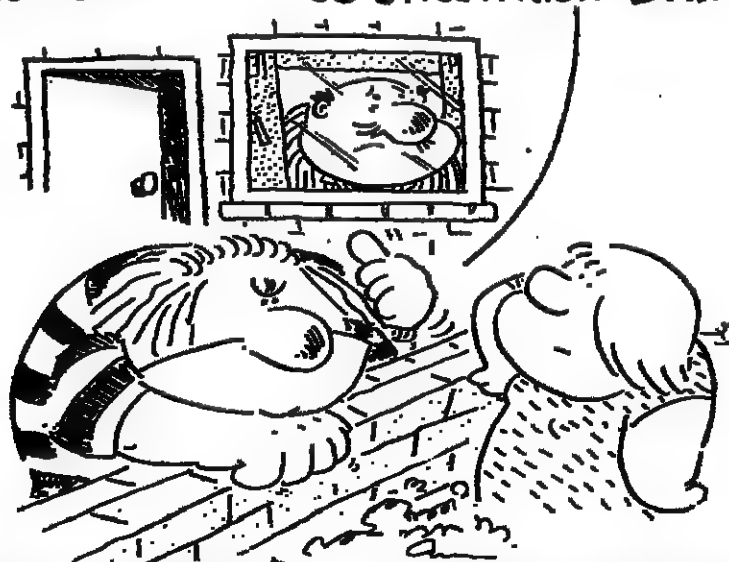


Ingersoll's Triumph pocket watch (below left) and Referee timer (below right), produced in 1946. In 1947 Rolex wristwatches, which cost £25, were still unavailable in Britain but the company's advertisements assured the public that they were "worth waiting for"

Plastic sugar, salt, pepper and mustard pots (left) by British Industrial Plastics Ltd were seen as a futuristic alternative to ceramic tableware

Dressing table (left) and chest of drawers (right) from the Utility Furniture Catalogue of June 1947, this range used more materials and labour than before. In 1948 the industry had greater freedom but Utility remained a guarantee of quality

HÖFELS GARLIC AND PARSLEY HELPED HIS COLD — BUT HE'S STILL A RIGHT DRIP



Höfel's GARLIC WITH PARSLEY

Everyone feels under the weather when they've got a cold. And sometimes there's no sympathy either. Fortunately Höfel's Garlic & Parsley — a traditional herbal remedy — can help stop colds getting you down, by helping to relieve the symptoms naturally. Garlic and Parsley have traditionally benefited generations of users, and now with Höfel's Garlic and Parsley, those benefits are available in a convenient, one a day formulation, that's easy to take all winter long. Help drips dry this winter with Höfel's Garlic and Parsley.



Always read the label

Höfel's Herbal Supplements

Natural healthcare for this day & age

SEVEN SEAS Health Care

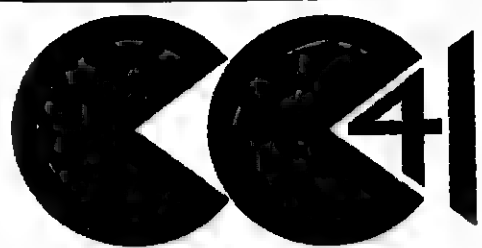


Never spill a good wine ever again.

The amazing Drop Stop makes it impossible for a single drop of wine to escape down your wine bottle after pouring. Roll up a Drop Stop. Slip it into the bottle and enjoy every drop. From Tesco, John Lewis, Boots, Labeled and other good stores everywhere. Around 52 for two

New Look flounces into fashion

British design in 1947
was a triumph of
ingenuity as couturiers
overcame fabric
shortages to mount an
elegant challenge to Dior



The wartime symbol denoting Utility garments



Victor Stiebel dress with a bow to emphasise fullness



In 1947, the social Season returned along with the hatty events such as Royal Ascot and the Henley Regatta, inspiring eye-catching new creations by the London designers



After the wartime privations, fashion swept back in 1947 with these very feminine and expensive creations using yards of the best fabrics — the antithesis of the Utility-style garments with short skirts and boxy, broad-shouldered military-style jackets

British hopes of stealing the fashion limelight from Paris were dashed in spring 1947 when the French couturier Christian Dior presented his sensational "New Look" collection with the soft, elegant lines of the Edwardian period.

Dior's designs were not only luxurious, bringing back femininity and glamour after a wartime period of privation, but were ultra-feminine: the shoulders were narrow, corseted waists were minuscule and ankle-length skirts were enormously full, consuming about 15 metres of fabric.

These expensive creations were the antithesis of British Utility garments, with their short skirts and boxy, broad-shouldered military-style jackets. In an age of austerity, the New Look was condemned in Britain as profligate, irresponsible and anachronistic.

However, many women were desperate to escape from dreary wartime clothing and were enchanted by the romantic silhouette. The seal of approval was set when Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Kent placed orders with Dior.

British designers responded as best they could, given the constraints of government-imposed rationing and the resource-saving Utility clothing scheme. In spite of shortages, there was a rise in demand for fashionable clothes. Released from wartime preoccupations, women had time to spend on themselves and top-to-toe perfection became their goal.

Fashion magazines emphasised the importance of matching accessories and grooming. In 1947, the tradition of presentation at Court was resumed, signalling the return of the

debutante and the social Season. Key events, from Ascot to Henley Regatta, required special outfits, provided by London designers, tailors and accessory makers.

However, the event of the year was the royal wedding, which gave a huge fillip to Britain's fashion industry. Princess Elizabeth wore a lavishly embroidered gown by Norman Hartnell, for which she surrendered 100 clothing coupons, nearly double the annual allowance for an adult.



Cirque d'hiver: The mood of autumn '47, captured by UK Harpers magazine

THREE OF A KIND



WITH the reintroduction of the social Season, hats were in great demand — from ingeniously tied headscarves to real fur pillboxes and silk flower creations. L.G.

FAR LEFT: Hugh Beresford used silk flowers
CENTRE: Dior sent real fur to women's heads
LEFT: Aschers turned scarves into berets

exotic prints for the West African market, which served for stylish daywear and even long evening gowns.

For the home market, designers proved resourceful. Denied the yardage available in France, they achieved a sense of fullness by a number of tricks, including the use of oversize, bustle-like bows. The ready-to-wear companies pro-

duced modified versions of the New Look, and home dress-makers could buy paper patterns to make the fashion for themselves. Women's magazines advised the less well-off to make hybrid styles by adding tiers and extra panels to existing garments, thereby achieving an up-to-the-minute appearance.

The resources were limited,

but women were determined to model themselves on the society ladies who could afford designer dresses. Rationing may still have been stringent, but the movement towards a new glamorous era had begun.

AMY DE LA HAYE,
VALERIE MENDES

● The writers are dress curators at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

All the Flavour of the Mediterranean

Discover Fortant de France and discover what the people of the Mediterranean have enjoyed for years — good food, good wine, good health.



The diversity of Fortant's innovative range of premier varietals is there to be discovered — from Grenache to Merlot, from Chardonnay to Viognier.

The war was over but food rationing lingered on. Marguerite Patten recalls inventive recipes to help home cooks get by

The lean days of eat in and eke out

The engagement and wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were like a fairy tale in what was a grim year as far as food was concerned. Shopping in 1947 was still as it had been during the war years. Most people registered with a local grocer for fats, sugar, tea, preserves and cheese, and with a dairy for milk and eggs, and a butcher for fresh meat — what little of it there was.

During the time of bread rationing you would register with a baker. You could change shops if you found you preferred a competitor's establishment.

You generally deposited all the relevant coupons from your precious ration book with the shopkeeper — and you knew they were safe. This saved time in waiting for them to be cut out at the counter every week.

You became known at these particular shops and were likely to get the best attention, although by 1947 many shoppers were grumbling that tradesmen had lost the art of wooing customers. Being well known did not mean extra basic rations, but a chance to buy scarce unrationed foods, such as custard powder, coffee, cocoa and jellies. A good grocer would keep these for regular, rather than casual, shoppers. A butcher would let you know when he had unrationed liver or other offal, or such treats as chicken or rabbit.

Fruit and vegetables were not rationed, though potatoes became restricted. Most people shopped for sweetmeats at various shops; we were allowed 12oz (350g) a month. Fish was unrationed.

The system of 16 points per person a month was still applying; with these you could choose foods such as canned meat or salmon or fruit (one good-sized can would take almost all your points).

Some shopkeepers would deliver your order if they had sufficient petrol or could carry the goods in a large bicycle basket.

If you travelled regularly on business or were on holiday, you did not register in the same way; you carried the book or a card which entitled you to buy rationed foods anywhere, but you would be exceptionally lucky if you were offered scarce unrationed foods. If staying in a hotel, you would hand in your card or book.

When whalemeat came on the British market it was sold by a few specialist butchers or fishmongers, but I only remember seeing one butcher's sign that announced that horsemeat was sold there.

The shortage of basic foods was almost worse than in the war years. Bread rationing was introduced in 1946 and continued into 1947. Many families countered the shortage by making quick and simple breads. This is a typical recipe.

■ SYRUP LOAF

4oz/115g self-raising flour
Pinch salt
½ level tsp bicarbonate soda
2 level tsp golden syrup (warm the syrup before measuring)
¼ pint/150ml milk

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6. Grease and flour a 1lb/450g loaf tin. Sift the flour, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Gradually beat in the syrup and milk. Pour into the tin, bake for 20 minutes, lower the heat to 180C/350F/gas mark 4 and continue cooking for a further ten minutes or until firm.

IN NOVEMBER 1947 potato rationing started. The Ministry of Food explained that this was necessary to safeguard supplies; because of the excessively cold winter of 1946 which continued into spring 1947, it had not been possible to plant as many potatoes as usual. The allowance was 3lb/1.35kg per person a week. This may sound a generous amount today, but for years we had been urged to eat as many potatoes as possible to compensate for the lack of other foods.

Food and cookery advisers, like myself at that time, suggested making dumplings whenever possible, flavoured with oatmeal, herbs and spices, and increasing supplies of other vegetables. The food situation was considered so serious that questions were asked in Parliament as to whether the population of Britain was having sufficient calories.



In the kitchen, precious flour and apples made a filling family pie. In the shops, "points" were taken for even the most basic necessities

One of the biggest problems was to maintain the weekly amounts of meat. The official ration was 12d (6p). Sometimes corned beef had to supplement fresh meat. Two steps were taken in 1947 to increase supplies.

The first was to provide horsemeat. The public was so horrified by the prospect that the idea was dropped. The second was to sell whalemeat. There was great publicity about this, and the Ministry of Food published recipes. The meat was off ration. It was not pleasant to prepare, for it had a strong, oily liver smell. When cooked it was quite palatable, especially in a stew, flavoured with curry or paprika or minced and made into hamburgers (yes, we knew about these in 1947) or as a filling for marrow or peppers. Peppers were one of the foods imported into Britain, with some oranges and lemons. For years we only saw green peppers, never red or yellow.

■ STUFFED PEPPERS

Serves 4
4 green peppers
For the filling:
1oz/25g margarine
1 large onion, finely chopped
8oz/225g minced whalemeat or beef

2oz/50g soft breadcrumbs or rolled oats
1 tbsp chopped parsley
1 fresh or reconstituted dried egg
Salt and pepper

Cut slices from the stalk ends of the peppers. Put peppers and slices into boiling water, cook for five minutes, then drain. Heat the margarine, fry the onion until soft, add the meat and cook for five minutes, stir well. Mix in the remaining ingredients. Spoon into the peppers, top with the slices. Place into a greased casserole. Cover and bake for 40 minutes in a preheated oven set to 180C/350F/gas mark 4. Serve with a purée of bottled tomatoes.

SAUSAGES and liver were not rationed but not always obtainable. Now onions and tomatoes were

becoming available throughout the year one could be more imaginative with sausagemeat, as in Mock Duck. We had become expert at turning out "mock" dishes. Mock Oyster Soup was made with Jerusalem artichokes and there were several versions of Mock Cream — it was still forbidden for dairies to sell real cream.

Country people had been able to obtain chickens, rabbits and pigeons, and now these were slowly appearing in towns. Chickens were generally elderly boiling fowls. When cooked they yielded precious fat as well as meat.

■ MOCK DUCK

Serves 4-5
1½lb/550g sausagemeat
8oz/225g onions, weight when peeled
1oz/25g margarine

8oz/225g dessert apples, weight when peeled and cored
2 tsp brown sugar
1 tsp chopped sage or ½ tsp dried sage
Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/gas mark 5. Spread half the sausagemeat into a flat layer in a greased roasting tin. Grate the onions, heat the margarine, and gently cook the onions for five minutes. Coarsely grate the apples, add to the onions with the sugar, sage and seasoning. Mix together and spread over the sausagemeat. Flatten the remaining sausagemeat and cover the filling; shape with your hands to form the duck. Cover and bake for 30 minutes; remove the cover and cook for a further 20 minutes so the "duck" browns.

IT WAS still a thrill for many families to benefit from the sporadic supplies of oranges and lemons. Some cooks saved the orange peel to make this pleasant home-made marmalade.

■ ORANGE AND APPLE MARMALADE

Peel from 4 sweet oranges
2½ pints/1.5l water
1lb/450g cooking apples (weight when peeled and cored)
Sugar (see method)

Shred the peel finely, add to the water and soak overnight. Simmer in the water until almost tender. Slice the apples; add to the pan and continue cooking until the peel is soft and the apples form a pulp. Add sugar (allow 1lb/450g sugar to each pint/600ml). Return to the pan, stir until the sugar has dissolved. Boil rapidly until setting point is reached. Spoon into hot jars and seal down.

• The writer worked with the Ministry of Food in 1947

Blinkered by blind ambition

In the sad quadrangles of Oxford University on that notable November day half a century ago there was no sign of rejoicing. Not a single college lawn chattered with tea-party guests gathered in honour of the marriage of the Princess, heir to the throne.

As usual, the Oxonian natives were restless, busily pursuing their long-term lost-cause strategy of never reflecting the nation's mood. Not that we were fiercely anti-monarchist: John Grigg, who much later on became the first public figure to venture a word or two of criticism of royal behaviour in print, was lurking in New College.

Just then he was busy with

Oxford students were distinctly underwhelmed by the big event. Ronald Payne reminisces

John Fowles, the future novelist, planning to get an invitation for a party from Oxford to make an expedition to the University of Aix-Marseille, the first into newly liberated France. It's quite a journey into the past recalling how it was at Oxford the year that

Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten. Even trickier is any effort to define what the young ladies and the gentlemen in the short commons' gowns made of it all.

Not very much if you go by the pages of *The Isis*, now known as a student magazine. Not then it wasn't. Those of us who were not done stuck strictly to the title undergraduate. Students were strictly chaps from the provinces, and both Oxford and Cambridge excluded themselves from that offensive appellation.

In the issue of *The Isis* that appeared the day before the great royal event, there was only one mention of it, and that was in an odd little number in the poetry section, signed Philip Warner, and ended with the phrase: "May a proud posterity issue from this unity." Little did he know.

Lack of interest in national rejoicing can be more easily understood when we remember that television was in its infancy and hardly anybody known to the university owned a "set" and would have kept it quiet if they did. The word had yet to be invented, but television was naff.

One or two people, mostly from the Oxford Union debating set who half-believed they had prime ministers' dispatch boxes in their knapsacks, were eyeing the BBC. Robin Day already dreading a television star. So did Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, now also a Sir and Tory backbencher, who assured me that television was the art form of the future.

Ludovic Kennedy, then an author, former naval officer with sea time and honorary of the Writers Club that invited distinguished novelists to dine and lecture in the hopes of picking up some of the magic, also later turned to the box. Kennedy wrote a cross little article in the November issue of *The Isis*, wryly complaining about his treatment at the Food Office over the loss of his ration book. In 1947 there was still rationing of food, clothes, petrol and even chocolate. Even the grandest undergraduates could be seen eating canteen lunches at 1s 6d (7½p)



Lunchtime for an undergraduate at the British Restaurant

a go in the grand parlours of the City Hall.

That was the location of the so-called British Restaurant, another sad survivor of the war. Beer was so weak that beer-tasting at the Olympia exhibition hall in London had to be cancelled that year because the English brew could not compete with foreign ones. Like wine and whisky, it was also in short supply.

What is easily, and perhaps best, forgotten is that we lived in a time of austerity presided over by the Labour Chancellor Stafford Cripps. We failed to comprehend it at the time, but life in England was as close as it ever became to existence in a Soviet people's republic. It was an era of power cuts, shortages, new-fangled nationalisation and strict

foreign currency allowances.

Because there was no television, there were no celebrity pontifications around to insist that the royal wedding was "historic". It was just another wedding, though one that the papers made a lot of fuss about. So did BBC radio, a touch ponderous as well as downright condescending and full of purple patch commentary. "Now a sudden shaft of sunlight strikes the breakfast plates of the Household Cavalry. Those splendid troopers as they ride down the Mall escorting..." was the kind of wireless stuff then available.

The word "radiant" figured pretty heavily. Small wonder then that argument and comment in the centres of Oxford social life, the Playhouse bar, the Kemp Coffee Shop and

Whites Bar in the High Street, concentrated on other matters. The brilliant Kenneth Tynan, in a purple suit and occasionally lipstick to match, raged about the ignorant follies of middle-aged Sunday newspaper critics and theatre producers (he became one before long). Sandy Wilson, who achieved fame as creator of *The Boy Friend*, produced witty revues parodying the hit musical *Oklahoma* — "When you take me out for a curry in the Taj Mahal".

"For whom the bell tolls" headlined a sharp little *Isis* opinion piece about women undergraduates. "They have the doubtful privilege of being recognised as members of the university — which is not granted them at Cambridge", but they looked on the place as "a glorified reference library. Women undergraduates might just as well go and work in the British Museum." Margaret Roberts, for example, or Indira Gandhi?

The wannabe journalists amused themselves and irritated others by railing on about the newly restarting Carlton Club in Oxford. "It is an unaggressive little place where two or three may gather together." They also savaged an attempt by posh hunting men to re-establish the Bullingdon with the headline, "Care for a drag, Mate?"

Scratch almost any undergraduate at that time and you would have found a good little socialist — very old Labour. Some believed in world government, even as the Cold War started, and united Europe already figured on the dream political menu.

Frankly, the university population, dominated by young men slightly older than their years, newly returned from the wars still wearing battledress tops and service dress tunics and glorying in a new-found ability to be irresponsible, had other things on its communal mind. Like girls — so seductive in their New Look tight-waisted and bosomy dresses, how best to carve out a career and how to create a bold new postwar world — in that order. Buckingham Palace goings-on seemed a bit of a sideshow.

Language? It's the full Monty

WHEN demobbed servicemen came home in 1947, they brought their tribal argot with them to mix with the slang of the Home Front, making it a prolific year for new language.

War and upheaval are great breeding grounds for words. One theory about the phrase "the full Monty", repopularised this year by the film, says that it came from Field Marshal Montgomery's supposed insistence on eating a full English breakfast of bacon, sausage, eggs and "bubble and squeak" before battle, whatever time it was.

It is more likely, however, that the expression comes from the three-piece demob suit supplied by a company called Montague Burton, representing mass-market tailors.

"To swan around", meaning to move around in an (apparently) aimless way, was brought home by the tank crews. The lexicographers derive it (unpersuasively) from imitating the action of a swan.

The late lamented General Sir Hackett — whose memorial service is on November 24 — knew better. He was actually present when it was coined about a languid officer named Swan in his cavalry regiment, the King's Royal Irish Hussars. Swan rode about the desert apparently aimlessly, but always got there in the end. "Gremlins" came out of the RAF in 1947. Roald Dahl, with characteristic vainglory, claimed to have invented the word, but it is older and hotly disputed. In 1947 girlfriends were known as charmers, lush bints, pokies or pushers. Men seeing a girl regularly were said to be "nibbling". An amorous couple were described as "kittens in a basket" and hangers were attacked with "char" and "gunfire" — tasteless dry biscuits so called because they crackled noisily when bitten.

PHILIP HOWARD



Porters came back to Covent Garden with their tall "fit for tabs" (hats)

THE SUNDAY TIMES
FOUR QUALITY
PRINTS FOR
LESS THAN £15



Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Seurat and Modigliani
See Culture in tomorrow's Sunday Times

Our lives have been as good

as good

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Joe and Isobel Lightfoot will be at the Thanksgiving

Our lives have been just as good

A couple married the same day as the royals talk to Robin Young

When Princess Elizabeth became engaged to Philip Mountbatten, there were masses of people to help them prepare for their nuptials. Joseph Lightfoot and Isobel Graham had no such luck.

Sweethearts since they were teenagers, and engaged for nearly three years, they had only ten days in which to make their arrangements, including obtaining the licence for their register office wedding in Carlisle, inviting their score of guests, arranging a reception in the Co-op restaurant in Borthwick, and buying their suits for the occasion.

For the Lightfoots the decisive factor was that Joe had been offered a job which brought a house, at 30 Robert Street, Carlisle.

"Houses then were hard to get and there were squatters about," Mrs Lightfoot said. "We were told that we had to move into the house almost immediately or it would go to someone else, but in the 1940s people did not set up home together until they were married so we took the first date the register office could offer."

To some extent arrangements for the wedding settled themselves. "We could not afford a grand ceremony or many guests. We only had enough to invite immediate family, and even then we had to limit ourselves to no more than one aunt each."

Most things were still rationed. Mr and Mrs Lightfoot had to beg and borrow points for the currants and marmalade for the wedding cake. Clothing points were required for the wedding outfits, too. Mr Lightfoot, who had served as a rear gunner with the RAF, did not wear his demob suit to get married in, as many newly released servicemen were doing at the time, but had forgotten where he bought his new one.

Mrs Lightfoot, though, remembers that her choice, a tweed check, which proved very serviceable afterwards, came from Hepworths. Like 30 Robert Street (now under a trading estate), and the Co-op restaurant where the reception was held, Hepworths is no longer there, though the Lightfoots returned to Carlisle when Joe retired in 1969.

There were, of course, no

coaches, horses or ceremonial parade. "Four of us just got in a taxi and went to the register office," Mrs Lightfoot says.

The couple went to a studio to have their wedding pictures taken and after the reception at the Co-op they invited their 20 guests to join them for a drink at the County Hotel.

Mrs Lightfoot recalls: "As we walked in, we heard the wedding march on the wireless from the wedding of Princess Elizabeth. That was the first time we realised that we were getting married the same day as she was. We sat in the lounge and listened to the royal wedding over drinks."

In the evening the newly-weds treated their guests to a night at His Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, another landmark that has disappeared. Because Mrs Lightfoot was 21 when the couple married, the same age as Princess Elizabeth, they were among the couples who, some months later, were offered one of the surplus royal presents.

The Women's Voluntary Service, who handled the distribution, wrote in April 1948 saying that Mrs Lightfoot had been chosen as "a girl of the princess's age, married the same week" to receive one of the rugs being sent by Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi of Calcutta.

In the event the royal rug did not survive long. On their first wedding anniversary Joe gave his wife a cocker spaniel puppy, which used the rug as a dog-loo. "We had to throw the rug out," Mrs Lightfoot says.

The royal newly-weds beat the Lightfoots by a year in the baby stakes. Prince Charles was born in 1948. David Lightfoot in 1949. Now David is married to Linda, and the Lightfoots have two grandchildren, Simon, 22, and Tim, 16.

They will be at Westminster Abbey for the thanksgiving service for the royal golden wedding, and hope to take in a show afterwards. Then they will have their own golden wedding party at the Cumbria Park Hotel on November 22.

Would they have exchanged their lives for that of the royals? "No," says Mr Lightfoot firmly. "What we have had was quite good enough."



The Lightfoot's wedding was arranged in just ten days

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN AND LEISURE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

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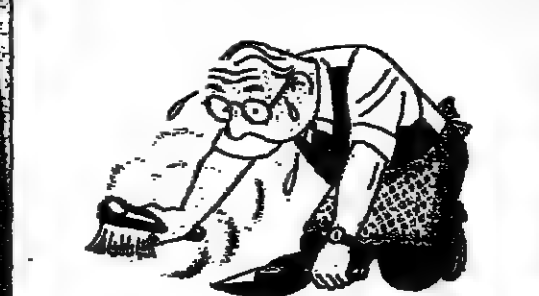
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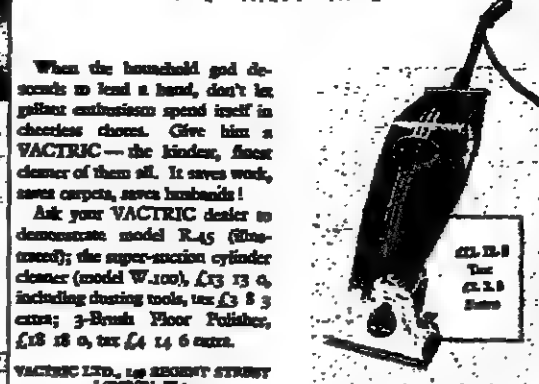
For a woman, a vacuum cleaner was as important as her make-up in 1947, says Joe Joseph



HE DESERVES THE BEST!



GIVE HIM A VACRITIC



Smoking among women was encouraged. This vacuum cleaner advert referred to a husband as "the household god". The cosmetics market was influenced by Hollywood

Girl power meant a Hoover

Even if you agree with Marshall McLuhan that advertisements are "the richest and most faithful daily reflection of our society ever made of its whole range of activities", advertising can seem an alien world, where the inhabitants appear improbably anxious about their armpits and bowel movements. Advertisers are among the few people who are actually keen to meet women with smelly underarms.

It wasn't much different in 1947, either. Magazines showed hostesses, still scrubbing the floor when guests were about to arrive, thinking to themselves: "They'll be here any minute...no time to change". So why were they looking quite so calm? Because they had learnt that "Milton Rinse takes care of personal

freshness". These are hostesses who know that "just a teaspoonful of Milton in a tumbler of water, and bathe your underarms before dressing. No matter how strenuous your work, it will keep you fresh and dainty all day".

This ad encapsulated the two main concerns of 1947 Women, at least as advertisers saw it. Women — apart from when they were not smoking a relaxing cigarette — would busy themselves either with housework or spend hours keeping themselves well-groomed, in case a man should pass by unexpectedly.

That's why Friday night was always "Amami Night", Amami being the health and beauty shampoo which creates the loveliest blonde. And if their hair did arrive unannounced, women were rarely caught out. "You hardly associate romance with washing up, do you?" squeals a lady doing the dishes. "But I didn't really mind him calling unexpectedly — I knew that my complexion was all right, thanks to Idolina."

Yes, but what makes her so sure? The fact that "Idolina Foundation cream and Face Powder are the wise girl's choice, giving her the confidence in her beauty that enables her to face any situation without worrying".

Mrs Ronald Colman, "wife of one of the screen's great actors", preferred to put her faith in lipstick, because "we Hollywood wives have to watch our lip-appeal. That is

why I'm so excited about the new Tangee 'Petit-Finish' Lip-stick colours. They keep your lips alluringly soft and appealing. In exciting new colours: Gay-red, Medium-Red, Theatrical-Red and Tangee Natural."

Not Mrs James Mason, though, "lovely young wife of the famous film star" who is "small and delicately made" with "an exquisite olive skin that is the envy of her friends". Mrs Mason invested her trust not in Tangee but in "regular cleansing with Pond's Cold Cream — it goes on so smoothly".

As for Snowflake Vanishing Cream, it even promised "tame and including marriage". "Only a few weeks ago Margaret was an unknown mannequin. Then a famous dress designer, attracted by Margaret's flawless complexion, noticed her perfect figure."

"She found herself in the headlines, picked to display Britain's dresses abroad. She thanked her lucky stars that she's kept her skin peel-soft, blemish-free with Snowflake Vanishing Cream. She's in South Africa now — won't come back until her new husband, a diamond-mine owner, brings her on a visit."

All in a few weeks? Margaret was a very fast mover. Or maybe just very fast.

But maybe Margaret also used Hinds hand cream, with

its even more startling aphrodisiac powers. You knew that, with Hinds on your hands, it was just a question of naming the wedding day, because "when lovely hands are held out, a man just can't resist surrendering the key to his heart".

Bouncy bowels were guaranteed by regularly gulping down "Blue Beans" at bedtime, since "sparkling health demands regular cleansing of the system".

Cigarettes were not only allowed, but encouraged, with a picture of a blonde sucking an untipped Will's Gold Flake, because "Discriminating smokers of all ages have chosen Gold Flake for quality of fine tobacco, superbly blended since 1893".

Would-be "successful hostesses" were advised to offer guests Embassy — "the large, mild cigarette, though free ciggies might still not be enough to keep the successful hostess's visitors from muttering about her slovenliness. As a mystery 'Lady X' warned in the ad for '3 Hands' antiseptic: "Many a housewife would be shocked if she could hear callers criticising the atmosphere of her home. 'House-staleness' can keep even friends away," which teaches every one of us an important lesson: people were two-faced in 1947, too.

But what does a pretty girl wear to hit the town? Jenners department store in Edinburgh took a full-page ad in Vogue to trumpet its antelope

suede hats — "so easy to wear in the way that suits you best" and in "so many lovely colours", including the now so-hard-to-find "nigger".

Many of the ads were little stories in their own right. In some, Mr Peak and Mr Freen would be chatting about Vita-weat biscuits. In others, a lady motorist whose car had broken down would get into a long conversation with the AA man about what made his knee-high black boots shine so dazzlingly. Kiwi boot polish, of course.

Or there was Joan, snivelling with yet another cold, who was jealous of Dorothy's staminate. Dorothy let her into the secret: "Since I started taking Ovaltine at bedtime I sleep like a top and it's just marvellous how it has built up my resistance. I feel a different woman." Joan was so thrilled with the results, she started pouring Ovaltine down the whole family's throats.

Journalists were thought respectable enough to feature in the Bourn-vita ad — a cup before bed ensuring that they would be able to perform perily in the morning, their brains once more alert enough to invent new plausible quotes.

Men were generally assumed to be cack-handed halfwits, which is not actually true of 6 per cent of adult males. Miller's British Baking Powder promised that "Even a husband can bake beautifully

now", providing a recipe for "Husband's sponge". We see another man being served a bowl of Welgar Shredded Wheat by his seven-year-old daughter, because "Joan is growing up fast, and already takes her share of mother's responsibilities" — including, presumably, the responsibility of pitying a grown man who can't even pour his own cereal. "He deserves the best! Give him a Vactric", coos another ad, this time for a vacuum cleaner. "When the household god descends to lend a hand — I am not making this up — 'don't let gallant enthusiasm spend itself in cheerless chores. Give him a Vactric. It saves work, saves carpets, saves husbands'."

Who knows? Maybe Philip's Vactric is the secret of the Queen's long marriage.



Diner's guide to a night out

THOUSANDS of people who thought they knew London very well before the war returned to a city changed almost beyond recognition. Some of their old haunts were bombed, others had simply closed during hard times; there were different habits, new legislation restricting food in restaurants and a strict code of conduct to be followed. Here we present a simple guide to London living, from W. Bently Capper's *Dining Out*, 1948.

Q With food rationing still so strict, what are we allowed to have to eat in restaurants?

A Every meal is regulated by a document known as the Meals in Establishments Order, created by Lord Woolton in 1942. Public meals are restricted to three courses, and the contents are restricted. You may not have more than one main dish; that is, a dish with more than 25 per cent of its total weight in meat, poultry or game. You may not have more than two subsidiary dishes: dishes with less than 25 per cent of foods specified. If you have a main dish, you may have only one subsidiary dish in addition. So, you may have hors d'oeuvre, followed by meat and a sweet; or soup, fish and a main dish. Bread counts as one course.

Q The Ministry of Food has fixed menus prices at 5s per person. Does this apply to all restaurants?

A Your meal will not include coffee, wines or a charge for a dance band, and many West End restaurants

have a licence permitting them to make a "house charge" if they cannot economically charge only 5s. A bill for two people can realistically be made up thus: two dinners, 10s; house charge 12s; coffee 3s; dance band 5s; plus service. Total 33s (£1.65).

Q What is the dress code for evening in smart establishments?

A Evening dress is *de rigueur*; on the dance floor, evening dress is almost always insisted on. The rule is: if you are dining out but not dancing, morning dress is permissible if there is a dance band you should dress up. For a man, dressing is relaxed — black tie and a soft-fronted shirt are fine, as is the double-breasted dinner jacket. The silk hat is now being replaced by the "Anthony Eden" fed.

Q Is it proper for ladies to smoke on an evening out?

A It is always worth considering other people's feelings. For instance, when getting up to dance, do not leave a lit cigarette balanced on the



edge of an ashtray. It nearly always falls off on to the table and smoulders on the cloth, leaving a brown charred mark or hole. Ditto in the ladies room: cigarettes should not be left on the dressing table after you have made up.

Q Should one tip at restaurants in the capital?

A Tips should be proffered in a becoming manner, that is to say, not grudgingly or patronisingly, but courteously, with a word of thanks. To accept a tip civilly is part of a waiter's education, just as it should be part of the education of the diner-out to acquire the art of giving it graciously. Give ten per cent of a bill as a rough guide. The usual amount for the [cloakroom] attendant in a good-class restaurant is 1s; 6d for the toilet attendant. Always give generously to a porter: someone who performs the near miracle of discovering, and summing-up, a taxi-cab should always be presented with a piece of silver.

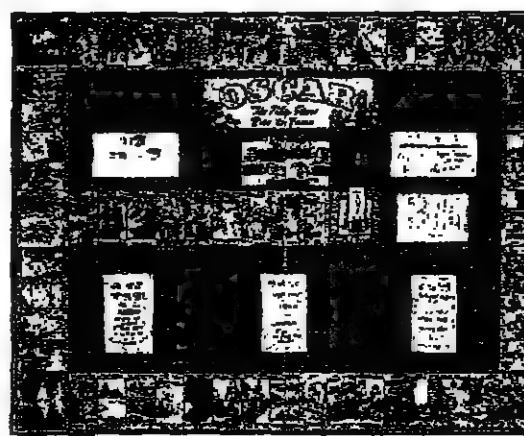
LISA GRAINGER

PEOPLE made their own entertainment in the Forties. The children (with some help from their elders) made trolley-carts from a plank of wood and old gram wheels, and castles from pre-war tin chests.

Indoors, the fully equipped playroom would no doubt feature these must-have amusements (no batteries needed): British toy soldiers, made of lead and brightly painted; Chad Valley money box; Dolls' house, with furniture by Puck.

Mobo tortoise; Oscar, The Film Stars' Rise to Fame board game; Toy theatre sheets; Tri-ang doll's pram; Walkover toy (wooden animal with joints joined by springs; these go limp when the bottom platform is pressed); Englund Experts and Vacation card games; Yoyo.

© The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood Exhibition of Top Christmas Toys from the 1940s starts on November 25. For further information call 0181-980 2415.



Oscar, The Film Stars' Rise to Fame board game

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At last, little palaces for the people



Flats like these were the "dream homes" for Islington tenants in 1947.

For millions of people in 1947 there was one overriding preoccupation: how and where to find somewhere decent to live. The prewar slum-clearance programme had been interrupted by the hostilities, scarcely a house or flat had been built between 1935 and 1945, and bombing raids had destroyed an estimated 500,000 dwellings, severely damaging 250,000 more. At the height of the Blitz in 1940, Churchill pledged that London and Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham would rise from their ruins, healthier and, he hoped, more beautiful than before. Mindful of Government failure after the First World War to fulfil Lloyd George's promise of 'homes fit for heroes', was sceptical.

In the summer of 1946, thousands of people took the law into their own hands and squatted in disused camps built for wartime service use. Although several local authorities disapproved, confrontation was generally avoided and some of the camps remained occupied for several years.

A more overtly political move was initiated in London by the Communist Party, which organised a brief occupation of some of the most expensive properties in Kensington. The Government responded with arrests and eviction orders, but it was, by later standards, a peaceful demonstration.

**In royal wedding
year the battle
began in earnest
to house the
homeless, says
John Young**

The job of providing postwar housing was given to Aneurin Bevan, the charismatic and controversial Minister of Health, who, during the 1945 general election campaign, had promised the rapid completion of five million new homes. But in 1947, the best prospect of new homes for working-class families was offered by aluminium or hardboard "prebabs" — which turned out to be more durable, comfortable and popular than anyone had foreseen.

The delay in getting the housing programme started was hardly surprising. In a nation effectively bankrupted by its war effort, and faced with recurrent balance of payments crises, a radical new Government was attempting to implement an ambitious programme involving the widescale and costly nationalisation of much private property. Housebuilding was only one of many sectors of the

A black and white photograph of a modern, single-story house. The house features a large, dark, angular facade that contrasts with the lighter sky. A man in a suit stands in the open doorway, pointing upwards with his right hand. Two children stand in the foreground on a lawn. The house has a flat roof and a chimney. The overall style is mid-20th-century architectural photography.

Devised as temporary housing in 1947, pre-fabricated homes, with all mod cons, turned out to be more durable, comfortable and popular than anyone had foreseen.

economy competing for scarce labour and raw materials.

Bevan's ideology insisted that priority should be given to public housing for rent, to the extent of placing a veto on the private sector. In August 1947, all work on private housing was suspended for the best part of a year.

Even so, things might have progressed more swiftly had it not been for the stifling influence of bureaucracy. The programme was nominally placed in the hands of nearly 1,500 local housing authorities in England and Wales alone, who were responsible for site preparation, contracts with builders, fixing rents, allocating tenants and managing the new council estates. But even the most go-ahead and committed councils were

discouraged by the daunting requirement that every scheme had to be approved by at least half a dozen Government departments.

Despite the difficulties, nearly 140,000 new houses were completed in 1947, a considerable advance on the meagre average of 75,000 a year between 1919 and 1939. They were for the most part houses, as opposed to flats. Bevan would not have recognised the term social engineering, but he believed that poorer families should aspire to middle-class standards: in other words, a decent, well-built house with three bedrooms and a garden.

suburbs that had sprung up in the early years of the century. But the disadvantages of unlimited suburban sprawl had become apparent even in the 1920s and 1930s.

During the war, the London County Council appointed Professor Patrick Abercrombie to produce a plan for Greater London, published in 1944, which envisaged a controlled reduction in population density from the inner to the outer areas, enclosed within a green belt in which virtually all development would be prohibited.

Happily, the green belts around London and other large conurbations were retained, but the corollary was the arrival of brutal, concrete, high-rise inner-city estates, into which millions of slum-dwellers were decanted with the promise

of comfortable flats with splendid views and modern conveniences.

In 1951 the Conservatives were returned to power, and Harold Macmillan, the housing minister, promised to build 300,000 homes a year, but the Government was unwittingly paving the way for the social disasters that followed.

Abercrombie did, however, leave two lasting legacies in the shape of the New Towns Act of 1946 and, still more importantly, the all-embracing Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 which, for the first time, stipulated that effectively all development should be subject to planning controls, and which has fundamentally shaped Britain's landscape during the past half-century.


the garden cities of Letchworth and Welwyn in Hertfordshire, conceived by Ebenezer Howard in the early years of this century. Of the original 14, eight were designated within a 30 or 40-mile radius of London, primarily to absorb overspill from the capital, and the other six to provide new growth points in economically depressed areas.

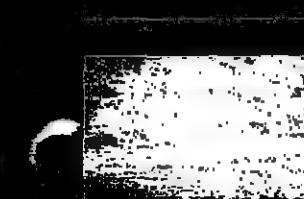

The new towns cannot be described as an unqualified success. Many early residents felt lonely and cut off from their roots, much as their Victorian ancestors had when forced off the land and into the new industrial cities. But in 1947, they did at least offer the hope of a brighter future.

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هكذا من الأصل

Clarence House was an ideal home for the newly-wed Princess Elizabeth, writes Marcus Binney



The newlyweds on honeymoon in Hampshire

Fine start for an aspiring couple

Clarence House holds a high place in the affections of successive monarchs, not as a palace, but as a home. It takes its name from the Duke of Clarence, better known as Sailor Bill, who came to the throne as William IV in 1830.

Clarence House also counts as one of the few places our present Queen can have felt was truly her home. She moved here in 1949, 18 months after her marriage to Prince Philip. This was the era of postwar building controls and rationing. When Prince Philip insisted on a cinema in the basement, strenuous efforts were made to keep it out of the press, even though it was a gift from the Kinematograph Renters Association.

Princess Elizabeth, as she then was, took a keen interest in the building works. She was undaunted by its dilapidated state: the last occupant had been Queen Victoria's favourite son, the Duke of Cornwall, who had died there in 1942, aged 91, without a single modern bathroom (only an antique copper tub hidden in a cupboard), and no proper electric lighting.

Princess Elizabeth, according to the Ministry of Works official who took the royal couple round, did not seem at all put out by the condition of the building, and lent a hand mixing the soft-green paint for the dining room walls. When someone complained of the smell of paint, she said: "Put a bucket of hay in there, that'll soon take it away."

The Duke of Edinburgh, keen on gadgets, organised piped news and music

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

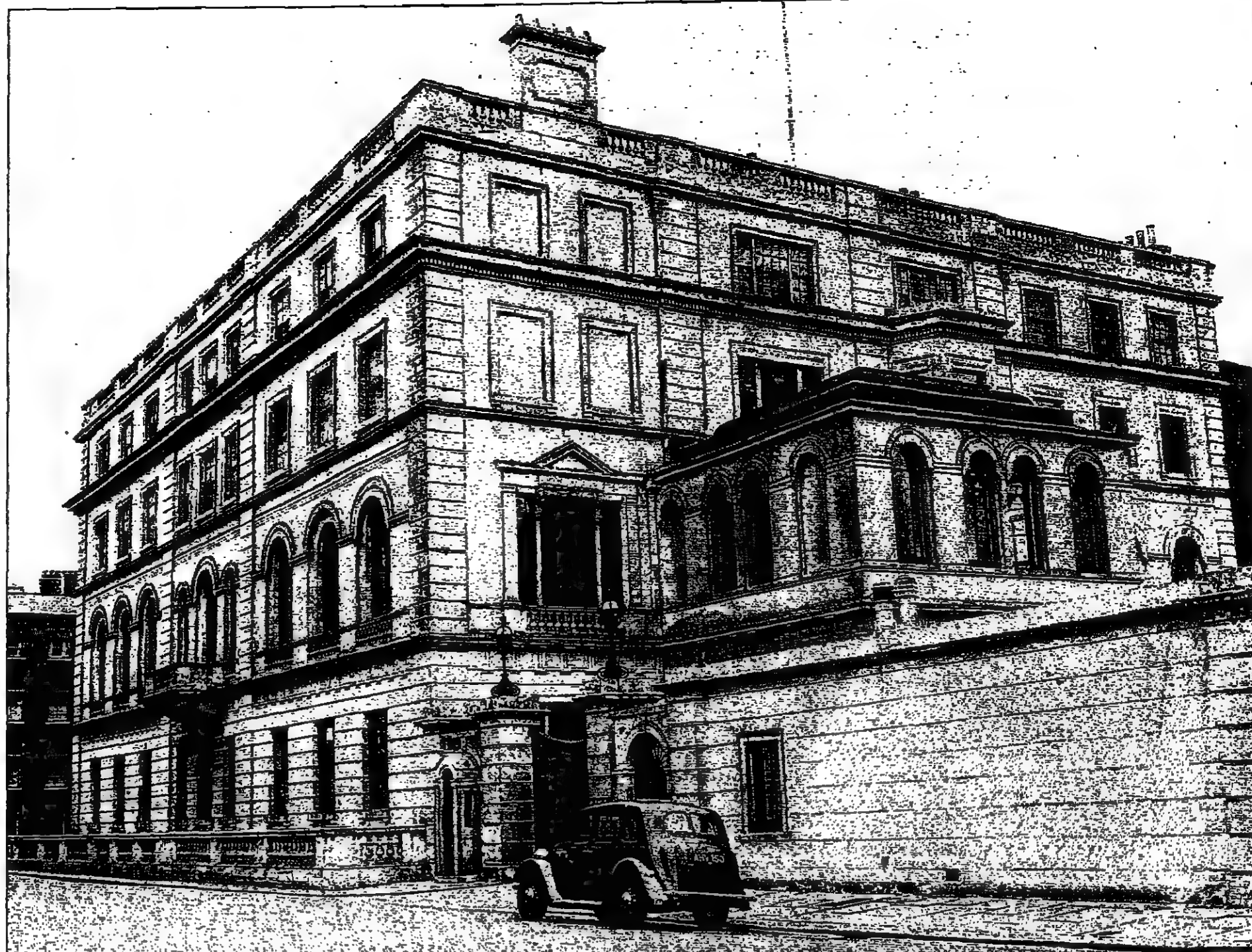
through speakers beside the beds, and bought labour-saving devices at the Ideal Home Exhibition, including the new electric mixers designed for servant couples.

Servants, in the new egalitarian age, were a problem, and when a household official went to the Labour Exchange, he found himself outbid. The solution lay in the food. While the royal couple took a light dinner of cold meat and salad, or sausage and mash, downstairs a three-course meal was laid on for staff.

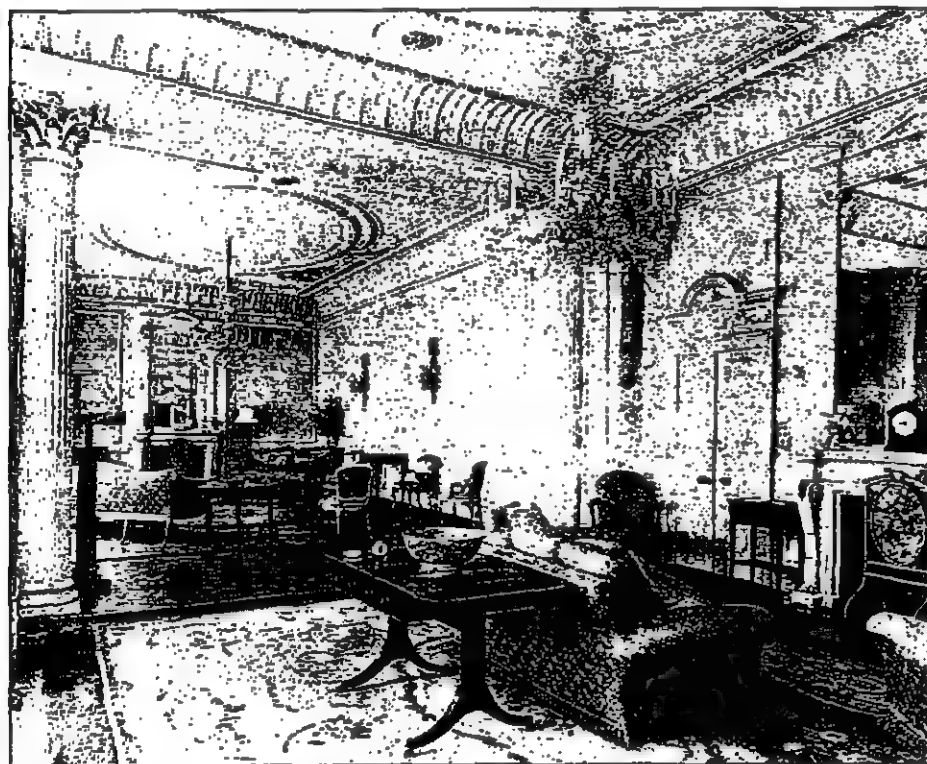
The emphasis was on simplicity, not state, with a recurring theme of the sea. The Duke of Edinburgh sat at a clean-lined modern desk made of Canadian maple and had a fold-out drawing table concealed in the panelling.

The many wedding presents given to the royal couple included a quantity of fine Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton furniture. The dining room was furnished with a fine mahogany table and a set of ladder-back chairs given by the Royal Warrant Holders Association.

As was traditional in royal palaces, the princess and duke had separate apartments, and separate but connecting bedrooms. The princess's sitting room was painted in what *Country Life* fancifully called "the pale cloudless blue of an early September morning", and was furnished with capacious chintz-covered arm-



Clarence House: built in 1825 for the Duke of Clarence, later William IV, and pictured in 1947. Wedding presents to the royal couple included much antique furniture



The drawing room was painted ivory and grey, its Nash ceiling picked out in gold



The Duke of Edinburgh's belongings being unloaded at Clarence House

Buckingham Palace and Philip wanted to stay at Clarence House, using Buckingham Palace as an office. But courtiers and Winston Churchill, the prime minister, overruled him.

The extraordinary interest the Queen Mother has taken in the furnishing of her home is recorded in John Cornford's *Clarence House*. The emphasis is on an understated luxury with cream walls setting off rich tapestries, furniture and paintings. The table settings are magnificent, with more porcelain than silver, and the Queen Mother, like other members of the Royal Family, sits in the middle of the long side of the table to enjoy the best of the conversation.

chairs and a large radiogram. Prince Charles's nursery had white walls, white chintz curtains, and covers with drawings of nursery rhymes.

The most impressive part of Clarence House lay in the high standards of housekeeping. Silver was polished with a paste of ammonia and rouge, so trays and slavers looked like sheets of glass.

In the kitchens, potatoes had to be cut egg-shaped to exactly the same size with the trim-

mings used for mash potato, or puréed for Prince Charles. The royal shoes had to be immaculately cleaned, and even the soles were polished.

William IV had lived at Clarence House as King. In 1840, the house was given to Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, who was offended at being moved out of Buckingham Palace.

After her death, it was allotted to the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's sec-

ond son. In 1874, he married Tsar Alexander's only daughter, and feeling the house was unworthy, he greatly enlarged it without the help of an architect. When he became Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha in 1893, he went to live in Germany, retaining the house for London visits.

When Princess Elizabeth's father, George VI, died, it was a case of double heartache. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, did not want to leave

MARKET COMMENT



Building for the future: postwar regeneration

PROPERTY advertisements in the newspapers offer a poignant clue to the housing market in 1947. A modern semi-detached three-bedroom house in southeast London was offered at £3,200, with the additional information "undamaged in war". Another ad stated: "Required: small house, Chelsea or Knightsbridge, to buy or rent, even if badly damaged."

They indicate that the war was still much in people's minds two years after its end, that the property market was taking a long time to get back to normal, and that there was a severe shortage of housing.

In London, 100,000 families lost their homes in the Blitz. Many left, and never returned, but in the capital and other cities targeted by German bombers the familiar sight was of bomb-sites and prefabs.

Rebuilding was getting under way, much of it municipal housing, but supply could not match demand. The trend towards owner-occupation which had gathered momentum in the 1930s continued after the war. The average price of a house before the war was £596, but by 1945 it had risen to £1,182, and by 1947 to £1,843, according to figures from the Halifax Building Society. (It was another ten years before prices moved significantly above £2,000.)

The *Building Societies Year Book* for 1947 reported that many families, having enjoyed high wages during the

established property market, rather, a search for bargains. Large cities were dotted with houses vacant because their owners had left, been killed or were still abroad.

Leading estate agents such as Knight Frank & Rutley (Rutley was dropped recently) were nonetheless providing a semblance of calm and continuity. "If there were no major projects yet, there was no lack of professional bread and butter," they recall in their recent centenary publication.

In the new and starkly realistic world of houses and flats were in demand for occupation, not speculation. And for the many buyers with mortgages, the question was asked "Why repay them?"

Harold Wincott, then editor of *The Investors Chronicle*, offered the almost revolutionary advice: "I can see no reason in an inflationary age why anyone should want to repay a mortgage. In earlier days a mortgage was a slightly embarrassing thing. Today, however, the financially sophisticated regard it as an excellent arrangement to gear up the equity value in property by allowing a building society to take the risk of a depreciation in the value of money." Which brings us up to date.

The market was changing, and the country houses now in demand were those with "labour-saving equipment which needed far fewer servants."

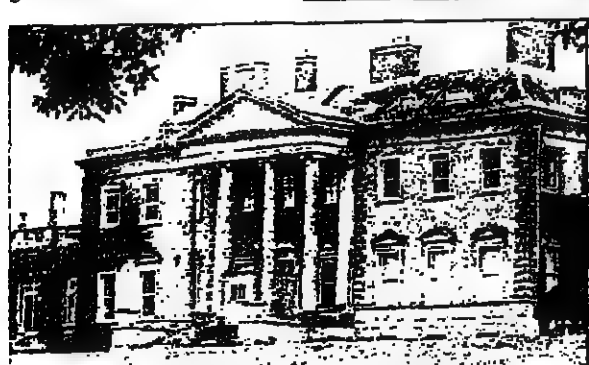
CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

ROYAL HONEYMOON HIDEAWAYS

PRINCESS Anne and Captain Mark Phillips spent the first night of their married life, November 15, 1973, before joining the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, at the Tatched House Lodge, in the heart of Richmond Park, Surrey. The 12-bedroom Georgian property, then the home of Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy, has a swimming pool and four acres of grounds.



GEORGE VI and Queen Elizabeth were lent Polesden Lacey, a Regency villa, near Great Bookham, Surrey, for part of their honeymoon in 1923 by the Hon Mrs Ronald Greville, an Edwardian hostess. The 18-bedroom house, with views over the North Downs, has 30 acres of gardens, landscaped walks and woodland, and was left to the National Trust in 1942.



PRINCESS Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh spent the first night of their honeymoon in the Portico room of Broadlands, in Romsey, Hampshire. The 16th-century Palladian style mansion containing collections of antiques and 18th-century sculptures, is set in 5,000 acres of gardens and woodland and was the home of Lord Mountbatten. It is now owned by his grandson, Lord Romsey.



HOME SWAP

ALTHOUGH the property market was active in 1947, prices were still falling and continued to do so until 1952. According to the agents Jackson Stobs & Staff, 50 per cent of its properties over £10,000 were withdrawn from the market before finding a buyer.



This charming 12-bedroom Georgian residence in 17 acres of orchard, paddocks and formal rose and kitchen gardens, in Windsor Forest, Berkshire, was for sale in November 1947 at £13,500 (which equates to £290,655 in 1997, although its market value would be nearer £5 million, says Jackson Stobs & Staff). It had two bedrooms, a lodge house, stables and other outbuildings.



On the fringe of Ashdown Forest, this ten-bedroom Sussex house, in 32 acres of well laid-out gardens and grounds, could be had for £13,750 (£298,037 in 1997; market value £1 million plus, according to Savills). Modernised throughout, it had five bedrooms, an Aga cooker, central heating, two cottages, garages, and a swimming pool.



For £15,000 (£322,950 in 1997; market value £3 million, says Knight Frank) you could buy this 25-bedroom country seat in 11 acres, in Hertfordshire. The red-brick mansion, 440ft up, facing southeast and approached by a drive, had central heating, modern drainage, five reception rooms, four bedrooms, a kitchen, servants' hall and housekeeper's room; garages and stabling.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Sun, sea and holiday camps such as Butlin's were great favourites as the British learnt to enjoy themselves again after the war

For you the war is over

In 1947 the Duke of Bedford brought his young family back from South Africa to begin a new life in his ancestral home, Woburn Abbey, writes John Young. His son, Lord Tavistock, recalled later that the weather was cold and wet and the huge house, uninhabited for many years, was cluttered with furniture, pictures and ornaments.

In July that year two government-appointed committees, known colloquially as Hobhouse and Huxley, reported on measures to protect some of the most scenic and fragile areas of England and Wales by designating them either as national parks or as nature reserves.



Trains to the coast were packed as seaside resorts enjoyed a boom after the war

There was no obvious link at the time between the committees' reports and Bedford's homecoming. But both in their different ways paved the way for a new relationship between the urban masses and their rural heritage.

Public access was not a new issue. The early enclosures in the 18th and 19th centuries provoked widespread riots, but anger diminished as more and more landless peasants left the countryside for the cities. Urban and rural populations became estranged, largely ignorant of each other's way of life.

After the First World War large numbers of people began fleeing the cities at weekends, by train or bicycle, in search of recreation. However, access to popular moorlands, such as the Peak District

private ownership and the question of access was still unresolved.

While farmers and owners of sporting estates were generally opposed to greater public access, many owners of country houses were preparing to open their homes to raise revenue. The idea was not a new one, but Bedford at Woburn and Lord Montagu at Beaulieu pioneered a commercial approach, introducing an element of the fairground for those with a limited appetite for furniture and family portraits.

In due course, "theme parks" and "safari adventures" would provide a strong counter-attraction to what in 1947 was overwhelmingly the most popular form of outing: a trip to the seaside. It was the heyday of the coastal resort; trains packed with holidaymakers rumbled through a countryside for which most passengers had little enthusiasm.

While seaside landladies and hoteliers delighted in their new prosperity after the lean war years, probably the biggest beneficiary was Billy Butlin, a South African

émigré raised in Canada, who opened his first holiday camps, at Skegness and Clacton, in the 1930s. During the war the camps accommodated troops and he was commissioned to build three more. After the war, Butlin bought them back, and in the summer of 1947 they attracted 500,000 "happy campers". Many were ex-servicemen and women who enjoyed the communal atmosphere and organised entertainment. It was like war without the nasty bits.

It was a long, hot summer and a golden one for cricket when Dennis Compton's record-breaking achievements were witnessed by capacity crowds. Football crowds were bigger than ever and spectator sports flourished.

Hunting, too, had survived the war years, even though the first instinct of many hunts had been to have their hounds put down. Fishing was well-established as a working man's pastime. If shooting, by comparison, was slow to recover its popularity, it was perhaps because most people had by then had quite enough of guns.

Land of hope and hard labour

For Britain's farmers, 1947 brought changes that would alter an ancient way of life, writes John Young

The year 1947 marked a watershed in the history of British farming. The passing of the Agriculture Act meant that for the first time farmers could look forward to guaranteed prices and markets for almost everything they produced. Subsidies would be paid out of general taxation and would not be reflected in higher food prices.



Ploughs were horse-drawn

Broadly speaking, income from meat, cereals and sugar beet would in future be underpinned by deficiency payments, which compensated for any difference between a national guaranteed price and what they could obtain on the market. Milk, eggs and potatoes would be sold through state marketing boards.

It was a system that was destined to work fairly successfully for the next quarter of a century, until Britain joined the EEC and embraced its now notorious Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The huge increases in productivity that have made the CAP so expensive to operate were undreamt of 50 years ago.

For the previous 150 years, farming had experienced a succession of booms and slumps. From 1870 onwards it

had been in fairly general decline, reaching its nadir in the 1930s Depression when farms were abandoned and much of the countryside became derelict.

The Second World War changed things dramatically. Under the slogan "Dig for Victory", almost every available acre came under the plough, from pasture to landscaped country estates, municipal parks and back gardens.

Once farming resumed a more normal pattern, the agricultural landscape was seen to have changed very little. Most farms were mixed holdings, growing a few acres of grain

or vegetables alongside an assortment of livestock, sheep, pigs, chickens and, perhaps, a small dairy herd.

The average farm size was between a quarter and a third of what it is today. About two-thirds were tenanted, in many cases from big landowners who needed the income to maintain their country houses and estates. In the following years, as landowners found themselves increasingly burdened by tax and expenses, more and more farms would come on the market and banks would encourage tenants to become owner-occupiers and expand their holdings.

In the early postwar years, nearly half a million workers were employed on farms, compared with fewer than 100,000 today. Many lived in tied cottages, which partly compensated for extremely low wages — less than £4 for a 48-hour week — but provided no security since they could be evicted at short notice.

For today's conservationists, 1947 was a golden age — before hedges and copests were ripped out, wetlands drained and heathlands ploughed to make way for huge featureless cornfields. There were no battery cages, intensive pig pens or mechanised milking parlours. In many places ploughs were still drawn by horses.

But the idyllic rural picture was largely an illusion. John Webster, 32, began farming in Ormskirk, Lancashire, 55 years ago. He remembers that on reclaimed land there was always a drainage problem and that in a wet autumn he was liable to lose most of his crops.

"We had no mains for electricity or water and it was just sheer hard work for all of us, especially the womenfolk," he recalls. "But it was a good life and we were happy."

After the war things changed completely. We had mechanisation and there were fewer jobs, so a lot of people went to work in the factories. Arthur Court, now nearly 90, began farming at 16 with "a stick and a pale". During the war much of the grassland was ploughed to grow cereals but after the war the farm went back into expanded milk production. "By then we had much better feeding and breeding and that pushed production up to perhaps twice pre-war levels," he says.

"Now most farmers have computers and the cows walk into the milking parlour and trigger off a mechanical system. It is all so different but I can't say it is any better. In those days, we certainly didn't have as many restrictions."

In return for price support, farmers were expected to accept more government control of their lives. At the beginning of the war, the Defence of the Realm Act gave the government draconian powers to control and direct food production, including dispossessing farmers who failed to reach their targets; about 15,000 were turned off their farms.

These highly unpopular powers were extended for a further six years after the war. But the 1947 Act, besides establishing guaranteed prices, also offered grants for modernisation and advice from a new government-run scientific advisory service.



In the early postwar years, nearly half a million workers were employed on farms

The National Farmers Union was brought in as a partner in the annual price review, which greatly strengthened the farming lobby as a force to be reckoned with in years to come.

The reason for the government's intense interest in agriculture was that the food crisis, far from easing after the war, appeared to be getting worse. Those living on farms enjoyed luxuries denied to their urban brethren: meat, milk, butter, fruit and vegetables were plentiful.

But for the rest of the population it was a different story. In 1946 bread, cakes, flour and oatmeal were rationed for the first time. The very embodiment of austerity was the gaunt figure of Sir Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor.

A puritanical teetotaler, he set about reducing imports to save scarce foreign exchange. An immediate cut in butter and meat rations was followed by reductions in tea, bacon, cheese and tinned foods.

Although Britain was undoubtedly better fed than most of Europe, which faced near starvation, 1947 was decidedly not a good year for housewives and shopkeepers. But it was an excellent time for the growing army of "spivs" with access to the black market supplying those who could afford to pay. Few then could have foreseen that, 50 years on, the store houses of Europe would be crammed with surplus and that "greedy" farmers would be blamed.

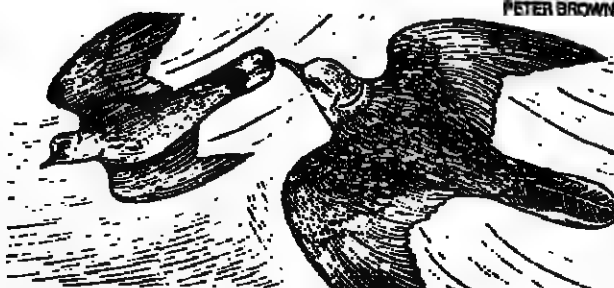
Little friends lost and won

FEATHER REPORT

WHAT would a birdwatcher who had been away from Britain since 1947 find if he strolled through the countryside today? At first, he might think that very little had changed.

In the woods in summer he would still find the blackcaps singing lustily in the trees above every bramble clump, and it would only be slowly that he realised he had not heard the familiar nightingale down by the stream, or the wren pip pip in the branches.

In the fields, he would hear skylarks singing overhead, and would probably not notice that on farms where there were a dozen pairs in his boyhood, there were only three or four pairs now. He would find a few yellowhammers singing in the hedges, but would then perceive that



Collared doves have invaded Britain from the Balkans

There were no tree sparrows. There have been real losses such as these to our bird population since 1947. On the moors, too, he would find it took a much longer day's walk to hear a curlew or a golden plover calling.

Yet he would also be amazed by some of the things he saw. He would be thrilled to see that dashing little hawk, the hobby, circling over the woods — a bird so rare when he was younger. Other hawks, too, have become commoner

— hen harriers soaring over the moors (perhaps in part responsible, along with the enormous flocks of grazing sheep, for the decline in the curlews); and those great white fish-hawks, the ospreys, nesting by the Scottish lochs.

He would certainly notice the increase in magpies and carrion crows. In fact, it is the larger, predatory birds that have flourished in the past few decades. But on sewage-farms (which he would certainly pay a visit to) he would be

astonished to find little ringed plovers darting briskly about on the mud in spring.

He would be most bemused, I think, by a triple call — "coo-coo-coo" — coming from rooftops wherever he went. When he was last out with his field-glasses, the collared dove had never been seen in Britain. Since then it has invaded western Europe from the Balkans, and has become one of our commonest birds. I have heard it singing anachronistically in the background of more than one television film set in Edwardian gardens. But our observer would not even find it mentioned in his boyhood bird guides.

DERWENT MAY
● What's about Birds — look and listen for small parties of crossbills, especially in pine trees. Twitcheys — a white-tailed eagle in Tregaron, Dyfed; a dusky warbler at Point of Ayr, Clywd. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.



ON THE SPOT: SISSINGHURST CASTLE

Rural recommendations

The place: Sissinghurst Castle, Kent

The view: from the top of the tower, above the room used for writing by Vita Sackville-West, is a fine view of the rose garden. On the other side is the White Garden and beyond the garden borders lie castles, woods and fields.

Historical interest: the Tudor mansion was bought in 1930 by Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicolson. Together they created one of Britain's most beautiful gardens which remains a perfect example of colour and form.

Time to visit: April, September and October to avoid the crowds.

How to get there: follow signposts from A262.

OS map ref: 808/384 on sheet 188.

Also nearby: the ancient village of Biddenden with its medieval Cloth Hall and the magnificent windmill at Cranbrook. Further afield is Knole House, the childhood home of Vita Sackville-West and base from which Virginia Woolf wrote *Orlando*. The National Trust property first opened to the public in 1947.

DEBORAH KING

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a £10,000 kitchen

This week *The Times* has teamed up with the BBC Good Food Show to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a dream kitchen and a VIP day at the show.

The Robson Ward hand-painted kitchen, from their Town and Country Range, will be made-to-measure to the winner's requirements. During the VIP visit to the show Adrian Ward, founder of the company, will work out a detailed plan.

The winner can choose from a range of materials for work surfaces including granite, wood or laminate and decide on cupboard shapes, doorhandles and trims.

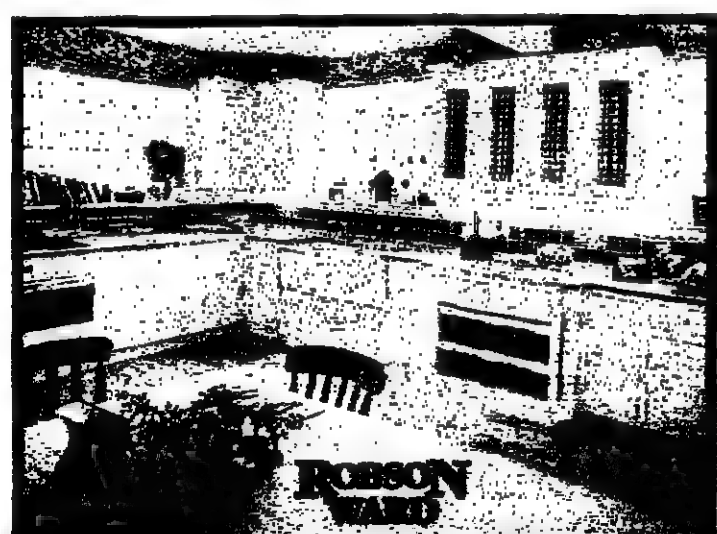
The winner's kitchen will also include a cooker from the latest Hotpoint range, plus a Franke ceramic sink with an exclusive triflow water purification system.

The winner will also receive a pair of free tickets to the Celebrity Theatre to see a demonstration by either Gary Rhodes, Ainsley Harriott, Ken Hom, Rick Stein or the Ready Steady Cook teams.

In addition, the winner will be given front of house seats for the Taste of the Country Theatre where a Robson Ward kitchen (pictured right) will be in action.

For further information on the full range of Robson Ward kitchens, call 01684 563577

HOW TO ENTER Attach either the token which was published in last Saturday's *Times* or the bonus token, right, to the entry form, below. The closing date for entries is November 22, 1997. All entries will be put into a free prize draw.



BBC Good Food Show

At the BBC Good Food Show you will be able to sample the best of British rural produce in the Food from the Countryside Area, find out how easy healthy eating can be at the Enjoy Healthy Eating Theatre, and sip your way from the UK to Australia in the World of Wine.

The show is being held at the NEC Birmingham between Wednesday, November 26 and Sunday, November 30, 1997. Ticket prices, with a *Times* discount, are: weekday £8.10; weekend £9.10.

For further information and to book tickets or celebrity demonstrations, call 0121 767 4000 quoting NTT.

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THE TIMES

Good Food SHOW

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Bonus token

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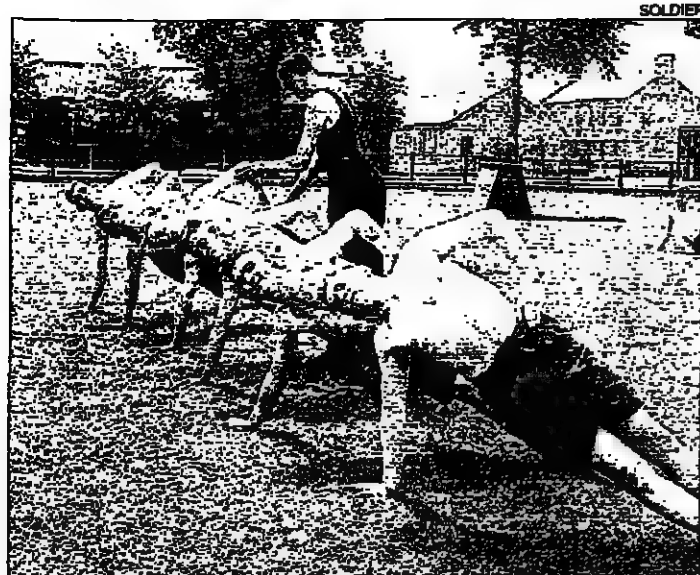
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مکذا من راصل

William Rees-Mogg remembers when he achieved promotion to acting sergeant in the RAF Education Corps



Fighting fit exercises at the Goods Depot, Caterham, Surrey

My brief career in the RAF

For most of those who lived through it, 1947 was one of the most unpleasant years of their lives. It started with an exceptionally cold winter in which supplies of coal ran out. These were fuelless days, electric fires burnt only a dull red, and crowds suddenly discovered the fascination of tropical plants at various shops around the country.

The fuel crisis broke the reputation of the Attlee Government for administrative competence. For years afterwards the Conservative Party speakers' handbook carried a much-loved quotation from Emmanuel Shinwell: "There will be no fuel crisis. I am the Minister for Fuel and Power and I ought to know."

I spent that winter as a National Service clerk in a Nissen hut at Flying Training Command Headquarters in Reading, Berkshire. We burnt anything we could lay our hands on, except the snooker table, in an effort to keep the hut warm; we failed.

In the summer I was sent on a course to Wellesbourne Mountford to be turned into an acting sergeant in the RAF Education Corps. That I enjoyed.

Wellesbourne Mountford is situated close to Stratford-upon-Avon where I went to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre; and I managed to stay with cousins who then lived in the beautiful village of Clifford Chambers. Their house was said to have a rather sad association with Shakespeare. In 1616 he went there for a drinking party, returned home flushed with muddled wine, caught a chill which turned to pneumonia, and died. I do not know whether the story is true.

We had a splendidly crazy wing commander who was in charge of the course. He was concerned that we should have brightly polished boots, something I was never any good at. He told us a long and rambling story about a Canadian Mountie who was sent into the wilderness to capture an outlaw. It took him three years to find his man and three years to bring him back. Nevertheless, he walked into a police station with his Mountie

uniform impeccably pressed and his boots shining like the sun. If I had not become a sergeant I would not have seen the royal wedding. I was returning to Reading, where the sergeants' mess had a television set (there were no television sets for ordinary airmen in those days). There was only the one BBC channel and I seem to remember it used to show a lot of children's programmes, as well as



Heavy snowfalls, drifts 20ft deep and freezing weather caused transport chaos in Kent: this car was stranded between Rainham and Maidstone on January 30, 1947



Under close supervision: William Rees-Mogg in 1947

"intervals" filled with pictures of windmills in Holland, clouds passing through the sky, daffodils in the Lake District and other such exciting scenes. There may even have been some cricket — 1947 was a vintage year, and I saw Denis Compton score a century at Lord's.

We saw shots of the royal wedding on television that day but I would not be a reliable witness. I believe we saw the whole ceremony but that may well have been the Coronation, which was six years later. I remember Richard Dimbleby giving the commentary but he did that at the Coronation as well. My one vivid memory is of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip coming out of Westminster Abbey, the bride with her veil pushed back, looking radiantly happy. I remember that it appeared to be snowing — but on television in 1947 it snowed all the time.

As the education sergeant at the headquarters, I was not exactly fully employed. Consequently, I

arranged to have tutorials on 17th-century history at Reading University, for which my tutor was paid three guineas a time; I remain grateful to him to this day. I tried, and failed, to teach an illiterate WAAF to read. I taught young officers general knowledge for their officers' promotion exam. I remember telling them, with all the authority of a 19-year-old, that they would acquire an excellent grasp of

current affairs if they read *The Times* every morning over breakfast. It was good advice, but I fear many of them preferred to look at Jane, the strip cartoon in the *Daily Mirror*.

I drafted a general knowledge quiz to find out what, if anything, they did know. That project had to be dropped when I put the quiz in front of my education officer, who was a squadron leader. One of my

multiple-part questions required the candidate to sort biblical characters into the Old and New Testaments. Unfortunately, the squadron leader had not read his Bible. He thought Moses was a figure in the New Testament, and scolded me for setting a quiz which he regarded as unreasonably difficult.

The sergeants' mess was not ill-disposed towards the royal marriage, but remained more or less stoically indifferent. We drank our beer and the occasional whisky and soda. I was the only teenager in a group of middle-aged men. They saw my life as quite divorced from their concerns; but we wished each other well. Their attitude towards Princess Elizabeth was much the same, but more so.

The following year I left the RAF and returned to Oxford University. As a sergeant I fear that I had failed to impress my Commanding Officer. He wrote a reference in my leaving book: "Sergeant Rees-Mogg is capable of performing routine tasks under close supervision." I only wish that were true.

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United in thanksgiving

We will hear a special prayer tomorrow, says Ruth Gledhill

Four days before the royal wedding in 1947, William McKie, the Westminster Abbey organist, was summoned to Buckingham Palace. Princess Elizabeth wanted a special hymn to be sung at the service. *Lord's My Shepherd* to be sung at the service. No, she had no idea what the hymn was called and she certainly did not have a copy of it. So she called Princess Margaret and, together, the sisters sang the tune to Dr McKie. He noted it down on manuscript paper and bustled back to teach it to his choristers at the Abbey choir school, which had just been reopened after being used by the War Office during the war. The choir duly sang *Crimond* at the service.

Next week, the chorists will again sing *Crimond* and this hymn, which, like the royal wedding, will begin with one of the Queen's favourite hymns, *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*.

The musical programme at the Service of Thanksgiving for the royal wedding anniversary in the Abbey on Thursday has been put together with the approval of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Martin Neary, the Abbey's present organist, has written a special setting for *May the Grace of Christ*. Some music from the service marking the 50th anniversary will also be played, as well as Benjamin Britten's *Jubilate*, which was written for the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, at the request of the Duke of Edinburgh. Peter Phillips, one of the Queen's grandsons, will read at the service from Ephesians, chapter three, and the Archbishop of Canterbury will deliver the address.

In addition, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have together written a special prayer to mark the anniversary. Dr George Carey, at Lambeth Palace, and Dr David Hope, at Bishopsthorpe, might come from opposite ends of the Church's spectrum — the one an evangelical Londoner with a large family of children and grandchildren, the other an Anglo-Catholic Yorkshireman committed to a life of celibacy — but in one thing they are united: in their conviction of the need to strengthen marriage and family life in Britain today, and

their belief that "those who pray together, stay together".

More than 12,000 Church of England clergy are expected to include the prayer in their morning services tomorrow or next Sunday. The prayer is a one-off. In past centuries, it was common for senior clerics to write prayers and hymns for public use, but a sad development in today's Church is that bishops rarely seem to do so. They seem to be more likely to issue press releases on political matters, or on debates in the Church's bureaucratic machinery of the General Synod.

The prayer's references to the marriage service, to the vows couples make to have and to hold one another "for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health", are deliberate. The aim is to inspire worshippers in church tomorrow to draw inspiration and hope from the example set by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Dr Andrew Purkis, the public affairs adviser to Dr Carey, says the prayer is important for two reasons: "Firstly, there is an enormous and very deep respect for the Queen herself and the Duke of Edinburgh, for their commitment to duty and their quiet but totally devoted sense of service. This sense of service incorporates a very active, profound and important Christian dimension that is deeply appreciated by both the Church and the archbishops. They wanted to give expression to that."

"Secondly, this prayer celebrates faithful marriage. The archbishops have in mind the fact that there are many people who will be involved in the thanksgiving service, and others who have been invited to garden parties at Buckingham Palace, who are all celebrating their golden wedding anniversary this year."

The prayer has been approved for public worship in the Church of England in connection with the anniversary, but the archbishops hope it will become a part of private prayer as well.

As one church insider said: "The hope is that people listening to this will not only pray for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, but will be reminded of their own marriage vows as well."

THE PRAYER

Almighty God, with joy in our hearts, we offer you our praise and thanksgiving as we celebrate the golden wedding of our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

We thank you for your precious gift of marriage, through which countless of your children, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, have found lifelong comfort and love.

Above all, we thank you for the constant commitment of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness throughout their long marriage, to the selfless Christian service of the people over whom you have called her to reign.

Pour your richest blessings upon them, we pray, and grant them many more years of happiness together.

Marriage is a serious and wonderful business

When Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip exchanged solemn vows of marriage in Westminster Abbey 50 years ago, no one could have imagined the extraordinary journey that was about to unfold. It was a predecessor of mine as Archbishop of York, Dr Cyril Garbett, who had the honour of preaching at the wedding in 1947. Emphasising the universality of the occasion, he pointed out that although a single wedding had never in the history of the world been followed with such interest by so many people, the sacrament of marriage itself — the solemn vows, the exchange of rings — is the same throughout the land. At the heart of every Christian wedding is the same dedication, the same commitment, the same acknowledgement that their life together could be lived only under God.

Following the Coronation in 1952, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip continued to be the most watched, scrutinised, and publicly married couple in the world as the growing and demanding media fixed their

eyes on them. They started a family of their own and became a more "public" royal family. This, of course, was not without its pitfalls. Political questioning under various governments, media intrusion, the changing face and status of Britain in the world brought renewed and unexpected pressures. Privacy became even more difficult and the family was often put under impossible pressure.

Yet whatever the difficulties faced by the Queen and Prince Philip, they have faced them together. And together in their marriage they have presented a sound and stable response amid change and uncertainty.

Credo
DAVID HOPE



saintly. Next week, in Westminster Abbey, a special service will offer prayers of thanksgiving for the witness which their marriage has provided and for the sacrament of marriage itself. Similar prayers will be offered in parish churches throughout the land.

Marriage is a relationship which

has no caveats, no let-out clauses; it has no built-in cut-offs of time or commitment. It is "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health". It is not for the casual or the faint-hearted. It is a covenant in which a man and a woman come together in response to God's call to share with him in creating — from their two disparate lives — a new identity in which individuality is not a sacrifice but complemented. It is a new relationship steeped and grounded in self-giving love which characterises the bond between Christ and his Church. It is a serious business, but it is also a wonderful one, as countless married couples

will testify. However, we must not play down the aspect of seriousness. A society which is increasingly unstable and uncertain, and correspondingly selfish and superficial in its responses, needs a good measure of this sort of seriousness. And not just within the special relationship of marriage. For there is a spiritual dimension to life and living which we ignore at our peril.

In his final words of advice to the young Princess and her bridegroom, my predecessor said: "The nearer you keep to God, the nearer you will keep to one another. Let Him always be the unseen guest in your home. Never let a day pass without speaking to God in prayer. Every day pray for one another and for His help and blessing."

In their life together, our Queen and her husband have learnt for themselves the deep truth of these simple words. They are words which remain every bit as wise and valuable today as ever they were.

David Hope is the Archbishop of York

Ancient and modern song



Ruth Gledhill on her chance to worship at a royal inner sanctum

IT IS one of the enduring anomalies of Britain that it is still possible for a commoner to enter the inner sanctum of a royal palace in order to go to church.

Of all the chapels that house the Chapel Royal — not a building but the ancient foundation of priests, singers and vestrymen appointed to serve the sovereign — the one at St James's Palace is the most intimate and appealing. This was where Victoria and Albert were married, and also George V.

It was built in the 16th century by Henry VIII for the worship of one of his illegitimate sons, Henry Fitzroy, whom he had intended should succeed him. It was here that Elizabeth I prayed for her country under threat of invasion from the Spanish Armada. The chapel, with its red velvet curtains, tapestries, feather-soft kneelers and Victorian box pews, is reached across the cobbled courtyard of the palace, where the Prince of Wales has his office and an apartment. A dozen-plus worshippers gathered for the early morning communion service. We used copies of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer which still invoked prayers for King George.

We were guided to our pews by David Baldwin, Sergeant of the Vestry and author of *The Chapel Royal, Ancient & Modern*, the history of the institution. The Rev Richard Bolton, chaplain of Merchant Taylors' school in Northwood and one of the "priests-in-ordinary" assigned to take services regularly, was the celebrant. We prayed for those who suffer, for those who have been bereaved and for peace. We prayed for the Queen, and for those in authority under her.

The three surviving Chapels Royal — at St James's,

Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London — are open to the public during services. The Queen's Royal Free Chapel of St George at Windsor Castle is also open to the public. The Royal Family worship at their private chapels in Windsor Great Park, Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace, with their own resident or domestic chaplains.

Our service was spoken, but this chapel is home to the Chapels Royal choral foundation, known as "the cradle of English church music", at Whitehall until 1698. The main Sunday services enjoy a cathedral-style musical tradition, with six "gentlemen" and ten "children" or chorists. Educated at the City of London School, they wear the scarlet and gold chapel livery detailed by Charles II in 1661. Among its organists, St James's has enjoyed the services of Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Blow, Purcell, Green and Boyce. Handel was once the chapel's composer.

Our reception was both warm and friendly. The Chapel Royal might be an ancient institution, but the welcome it offers is thoroughly modern and alive.

© The Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, London SW1 (0171-430 4632)

Chapel Royal choristers at St James's Palace, 1947

Church Services tomorrow

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity
ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Eucharist; 3.15 Ch E. Stanford in C.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Ch E. Stanford in B & F; 3.30 Ch E.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Eucharist; 11.30 S Eucharist; Canon G O'Neill; 4 Ch E.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Eucharist; Miss Anna Christi Munera (Palestine); 4 Ch E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Eucharist; Wood in C minor; Canon P Jackson; 3.30 E.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 10 Ch Eucharist; Darke in F; 3.30 Ch E.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M in Nave; Eucharist in the crypt; 11 S Eucharist; 3.15 E. Responses: Affirmed; 6.30 Service for Diocesan Readers.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Eucharist; Schubert in G; 3 E.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Eucharist; 11.15 S Eucharist; 6 Ch E.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Eucharist; 3 Thanksgiving Service for the Queen & Prince Philip; 5.30 E.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 11 S Eucharist; Christchurch Mass (Archer); 3.30 Ch E.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Eucharist; Vaughan Williams in G; 11.15 S Eucharist; 6 E.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 Eucharist; 2.30 Remember Our Child Service; 5 Ch E. Sunbeam in G.
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Eucharist; Missa Brevis (Palestine); 6 Ch E.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Ch E. Canon T Willmott; 3.30 E. Purcell in G minor.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC. Canon D Green; 10.30 S Eucharist; Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 3.45 E. Blay in B minor.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Eucharist; Canon C & F. Canon N Heavisdale; 12.15 HC; 3 E.
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Eucharist; Schubert in G; 11.15 M; 6.30 E.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Eucharist; Archdeacon of Hereford; 11.30 M; Harwood in A flat; 3.30 E.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Ch Eucharist; Darke in F; 2.30 Service for Prisoners' Week; 4 Ch E.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Eucharist; Darke in F; 4.30 E.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 LHC; 9 M; 9.30 Family Service; 11.15 Solemn Eucharist; Schubert in G; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Eucharist; 3 Installation of Canon; 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Eucharist; 10.30 S Eucharist; Messe Solemnelle (Langlais); 6.30 Eucharist; Rite A. Rev R Bain.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Eucharist; Canon B Langley; 6 Diocesan Confirmation.
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Eucharist; Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 6.30 Ch E. Harwood in F.
NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Eucharist; Lesinga Mass (Archer); 3.30 Service for Road Peace; 6.30 EP. Canon M Perham.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Eucharist; Missa Brevis (Leighton); Canon M Covington; 3.30 E.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Eucharist; Darke in F. Rev M Maslovic; 6.30 E. Dyson in D.
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Eucharist; Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn); 3.15 E. 2nd Service (Gibbons); 6.30 Diocesan Confirmation.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Eucharist; Mass (Leighton); 11.30 M; Canon J Reynolds; 3 Ch E.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Eucharist; Jackson in G; 6.30 E & Sermon. Kelly in C. Canon C Smith.
SOUTH-WARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Eucharist; 11 Ch Eucharist; Messe Solemnelle (Langlais); 3 Ch E. Stanford in B flat; F. Peterson.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 LHC; 9.30 C; 11 M; Stanford in C. Rev Dr P Coker; 3.15 E. Collegium Regale (Wood).
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Eucharist; Rev M Palmer; 6 E. Stanford in A.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Solemn Eucharist; Darke in F. Canon R Capper; 4 E. Walmsley in D minor.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Eucharist; Missa brevis (Berkeley); 3 E. 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 S Eucharist; 10.30 Solemn Mass; Mass in D (Dvorak); 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B; 5.30 7 Mass.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Eucharist; Messe Solemnelle (Viennese); 3.30 E. Rubbra in A flat.
YORK MINSTER: 8.45 HC; 10 S Eucharist; 11.30 M Britain in C & F. St John's Service (Howells); Canon P Ferguson.
ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL: Herefordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Eucharist; 11.15 Crown Court M. Stanford in B flat; Rev J Cotton; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E. Responses: Rose.
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL: Aberdeen: 9 HC; 10.15 S Eucharist; Hereford Service (Lloyd); 6.30 ES.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL: Chwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Eucharist; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendig; 11.15 Ch M. Stanford in B flat; 6 Ch E. Dyson in D. The Dean.
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Eucharist; 11.45 HC; 3 Ferial E & Commemoration of the Wedding of HM the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.
ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL: Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass. Mass in G (Mozart); Rev P Turner; 6 LM.
ST GILES CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS; 6 E. 8 ES.
ST MARK'S CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8 Eucharist; 10.30 S Eucharist; Missa Brevis (Leighton); 3.30 Ch E. Wood in F.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: Glasgow: 8.30 Eucharist; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E.
ST MACHARS CATHEDRAL: Old Aberdeen: 11 MS. Rev R Fraser; 6 ES.
ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 8.30 HC; 10.45 S Eucharist; Stanford in B flat; 3.15 Ch E. Very Rev M Stewart.
ST PAULS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Eucharist; Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams); 3.15 E. Rev A Burnham; 5 Organ Recital.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL: SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy; Russian and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS: W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM. Rev J Davies; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B.
ALL SOULS: W1: 8 C; 9.30 MP. Rev J Cook; 6.30 C. Rev R Trist.
THE ASSUMPTION: W1: 11 MS. Missa sine confiteo (Palestine).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M. Rev J Smith; 12.15 HC; 6 E. Rev P Elvy.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: WC2: 11.15 MS; 6.30 ES. Rev S Hind.
FARM STREET: W1: 8, 9.30 Mass; 11 Solemn Latin; 12.30, 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON: SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.
THE ORATORY: SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Missa Pange lingua (Jousselin); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: W8: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y Gizzian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL: EC2: 9.45 HC. Rev Dr J Griffiths; 11 M.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 HC. Rev B Beck; 6.30 ES.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran): EC2: 11 Ch Eucharist; Rev G Neumann; 7 Bach Vespers. Rev P D Schmiedje.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT: EC4: 9 HC; 11 Ch Eucharist; 6.30 E. Rainwater in D. The Rector.
ST BRIDGES: EC4: 11 Ch M & Eucharist; Stanford in G. Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E. Writers in Prison Service. Responses: Byrd.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Eucharist; Communion in C & F (Stanford); Rev D Mackenzie.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: SW1: 11 HC. Rev D P Bush; 6.30 ES. Rev J H McIndoe.
ST ETHELDREDAS: Ely Place: 11 S Mass; Mass in D minor (Kisner).
ST GEORGES: W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Eucharist; Missa sine Nomine (Hassler).
ST JAMES'S: W2: 10.30 S Eucharist; Rev B Wilson; 6 Ch E. Short Service (Causton).
ST JAMES'S: Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Eucharist; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHNS: E15: 11 HC. Prelude & Fugue in D (Bach). Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP.
ST LUKES: SW8: 8 HC; 10.30 S Eucharist; Ave Verum (Elgar); 12.15 HC; 6.30 E.
ST MARK'S: NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Eucharist; Missa Solemnelle (Hassler).
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Eucharist; Canon G Brown; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 6.30 Festival Ch E. Ven C Young.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH: W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Eucharist; F & G; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E. Fr M Fuller.
ST MARY'S: SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM. Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); Fr B Scott; 6 Solemn E & B; 7 LM.
ST MARY-THÉ-VIRGIN: Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Eucharist; 6 Total Service.
ST MARLBOROUGH: W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Eucharist; Mass in E flat (Weber); Prof J Caldwell.
ST PAULS: SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Eucharist; Plainsong. Rev W Gulliford.
ST PETERS: SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Eucharist; 11 S Eucharist; Missa Salva Intemerata (Tallis).
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCLIA: HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M. Rev P C Abram.
CHAPEL ROYAL: St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Ven D Fleming.
CHAPEL ROYAL: Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M. Sunbeam in G; 3.30 E.
CHAPELS CHAPEL OF ST SAVOY: WC2: 11 S Eucharist; Jackson in G.
GRAYS INN CHAPEL: WC1: 11.15 Divine Service.
QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE: Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M; 11.45 S Eucharist; Missa Bell (Lassus); 5.15 E. Third Service (Tomkins).
THE TEMPLE CHURCH: Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Stanford in C.
GUARDS CHAPEL: Wellington Barracks: SW1: 11 M; Band of the Welsh Guards; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL: SE10: 11 S Eucharist; Rev R Norton.

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Enjoyment for all on the cheap

The Queen's golden wedding anniversary next week will be celebrated privately, with only a small number of official events: the Gala Concert at the Festival Hall on Wednesday, organised by Prince Edward, and a Service of Thanksgiving followed by a walkabout at Westminster Abbey the following day. The Queen and Prince Philip will attend a lunch hosted by the Prime Minister and his wife and give a private dance at Windsor Castle.

Fifty years ago the royal wedding was a great public spectacle, a welcome touch of pageantry and colour in a drab, postwar world. The end of the Second World War had not brought an instant return to prosperity. Two years after the end of the war, food was still rationed, holidays were a luxury and clothes were on "points". Princess Elizabeth's wedding dress took a great many points and "make-do-and-mend" was still the order of the day. Simple, practical ways of getting by and enjoying yourself were all that people could afford.

Here are some courses and activities that — prices apart — would probably have appealed to people 50 years ago.

NOVEMBER 21-23

Winter walking weekends: two and three-night breaks in the Cotswolds, Lake District, Wensleydale and the Peak District. Contact English Wanderers (01740 653169). Prices from £99-£145.

Learn practical skills on the Scottish Borders: painting, pottery, dry-stone walling, fishing. All with Border Hobby Holidays of Kelso (01573 460373). Price per weekend, £175.

China painting: Wine appreciation, colour and style workshop. Continental lace: all at Horncliffe College, Horncliffe, Lincolnshire (01507 522449). Price per course, £87, residential.

Photography, black and white printing: at Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price includes accommodation and tuition, £102.

Keeping the faith, a writer's workshop: a full weekend course at the Hawkwood College at Stroud, in the Cotswolds (01453 759034). Tuition and full board, £101.

Batik and silk painting: Working in oils: all at the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £79-£104 all inclusive.

Painting in miniature: Harpichord workshop: Painting portraits in oils: Genealogical research with Stella Colwell: all at the

Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Price £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Nineteenth-century dance: Floral arts: Calligraphy: Welsh: this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre, Pen Y Fford, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course £88 including full-board accommodation.

Tax for the self-employed: History of the visual arts: Byzantine and Early Christian: Theatre and audience: a selection of the courses available at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Prices from £159 residential, £59 non-residential.

"We shall remember them" — the story of the First World War: First steps in parchment craft: some courses held this weekend at Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). Price per course £89 inclusive.

Shamrock and rose, the study of Irish history: Literature tutorial weekends: at Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01822 372105). Prices from £36-£70 inclusive, depending on subject. Brochure available.

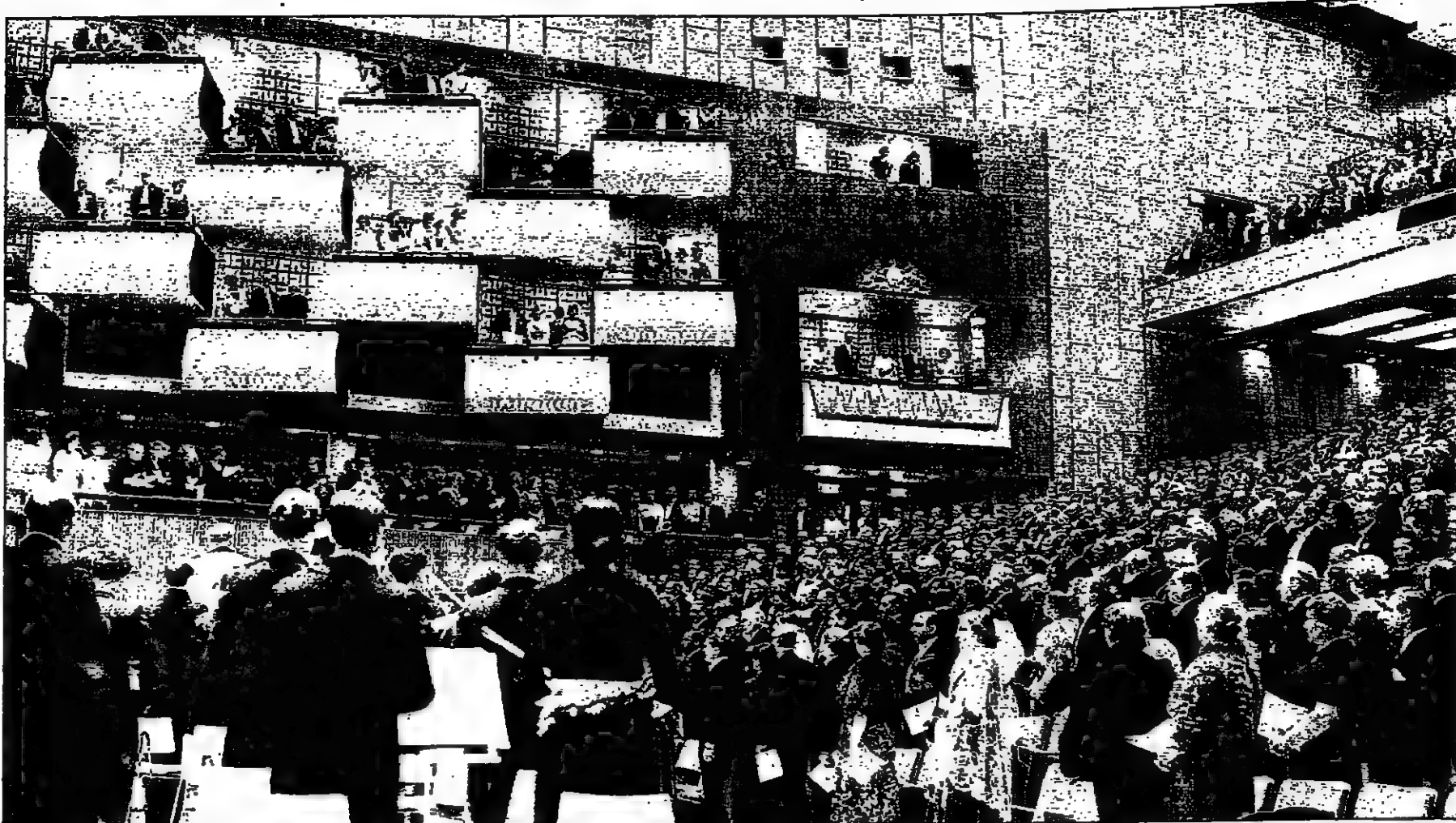
Bridge for beginners: Stress control and relaxation: Stained glass: Miniature painting: for beginners: at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392).

From £142 residential and £98 non-residential. Royal patronage through the ages: Plaque's Republic: George, Elton's Middlemarch: some varied courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, including full-board accommodation and tuition.

Creative writing: Greetings cards in watercolour: all at Lancashire College, Southport Road, Chorley (01257 260909). Price per course, £96.

Conservation in action: energy, resources and recycling, and how to save heat and stay warm this winter: at the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £79-£104 inclusive.

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES



George VI and Queen Elizabeth appear with Princess Margaret, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at the opening of the Festival Hall in London in 1953

From £142 residential and £98 non-residential.

Royal patronage through the ages: Plaque's Republic: George, Elton's Middlemarch: some varied courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, including full-board accommodation and tuition.

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NOVEMBER 28-30

Make your own Christmas cards: a weekend of creative paper-making at the Hawkwood College, Stroud, Gloucestershire (01453 759034). Price for full board, £101. A taste of Buddhism: Creative writing: at the Ammerdown

Centre, Radstock, near Bath (01761 433709). Prices from £30-£69.

Schubert's 180th anniversary: at Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price £92, all inclusive.

Enamelling, a beginner's weekend: at Flatford Mill Field Study Centre (01206 298283). East Bergholt, Essex. Prices from £79-£102 inclusive.

A writers' workshop: Christmas quilting: Straw laccwork: Landscapes in watercolour: all this weekend at the Hill Residential College, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course £88 inclusive.

Stepping out for Samaritans, a writing course: Diagonale and the Ballets Russes: Knitting in embroidery: Modern Painting Series 2 — Post-Impressionism: all this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Price £159 residential and £59 non-residential.

Silversmithing, bangles and spoons: Painting the fruits of autumn: Life drawing: Viola concert music: at West Dean College,

Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Handicrafts in lanterns: Winter landscapes in watercolour: Christmas decorations: Natural history illustration: how to draw and paint wildlife, plants, flowers and insects: at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

DECEMBER 5-7

Skiing workshops and practice: get ready for the slopes at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including lunch and use of equipment.

Fell walking weekends in the Lake District: with Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-448 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells, accommodation and transport included, prices from £135 per head.

A guided tour of the universe: The natural history of Christmas: Reading Latin documents: three

courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, including full-board accommodation.

Top-to-toe: hair and beauty: Stained glass, lighting design: at the Lancashire College, Chorley (01257 260909). Price per course £96, all inclusive.

We were amused — entertainment and leisure in the Victorian era: The music of Spain: two courses this weekend at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Price from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Handmade chocolates for Christmas: A Christmas bridge party: Competitive duplicate bridge with partners for singles: Painting on silk: You too can sing: all at the Earmley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course, £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Folk music for fun: at Belstead House Education and Conference Centre, Ipswich (01473 686321). From £75-£95, full board.

The Music of Sibelius: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight:

Tombs of the Pharaohs: some courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 53866).

From £24 per day or £115 per weekend.

Drawing for the terrified: an introductory course at Alston Hall Residential College, Longridge, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). From £75, full board and tuition included.

Life painting in oils: Blacksmithing for beginners: Basic wood-working and carpentry: all at West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price from £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Certified First Aid: a useful course for families at Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price £112, including tuition and full-board accommodation.

Arms, armour and fortification in the Middle Ages: at the University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £44, accommodation by arrangement.

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An end to tough times for four-legged friends

Jack Crossley reports on how pets made a comeback after a bad war

While columns of newspaper coverage were devoted to the royal wedding in 1947, there was still plenty of space given to that other enduring British passion: pets. Hundreds of thousands of them were put down when the Second World War started — German dachshunds had a particularly bad time — but by 1947 pets were well on their way to winning themselves back into our lives.

As a wedding gift to Princess Elizabeth, the RSPCA presented her with a picture of her mother fondling her corgi, Crickers, and in its 124th annual report for 1947 reproduced this two-hanky tear-jerker which had entranced newspaper readers:

Widespread interest and sympathy were aroused by the case of Strikey, a brindle greyhound bitch, whose owner, ill-clad and shivering in bitterly cold weather, was arrested for begging.

The animal, however, was obviously well fed and cared for — her master's coat being carefully wrapped around her body as a protection against the biting wind. Not as a trick to gain the sympathy of passers-by, but because a deep love existed between these two outcasts of the grey London streets.

The magistrate refused to sanction the destruction of Strikey, who is now being cared for by the society until she can be reunited with her master.

The reunion will be a joyful one, but what of her future? It is difficult to foretell, but one thing is certain: Strikey will receive from



WARTIME HERO 1, from the Daily Sketch: "William Gardner (left), who was rescued with head injuries, insisted on helping the Civil Defence workers save a woman from a bombed-out house and then, after several hours, recovered his dog, Sally."

WARTIME HERO 2, from the Press News Service: "Wild cats from bombed sites behind Fleet Street keep a dinner date with their nightly benefactress (above). Says 83-year-old Mrs Blackmore: 'Sometimes it costs us a pound a week to supply 20 dinners a night.'"

her master the same loving care and attention which many animals in more fortunate circumstances might well envy.

The year 1947 was also the first year that prayers for animals were offered in Canterbury Cathedral.

It was all a big comeback for pets. During the war they were not permitted in public air-raid shelters, and people with private shelters were told: "Muzzle your dog and put your cat in a basket — frenzied animals are dangerous and difficult to handle." Owners of

horses were advised that, during air raids, they should not gallop them to safety or leave them tied to lamp posts or Belisha beacons.

Dennis Hipgrave was a young RSPCA worker in Sister Mabel's Dispensary at Camberwell, South London. In 1939, Now 78, he says: "Pets were the first victims of the war. From day one people rushed to have their animals put down. They felt it was more humane to have their pets put to sleep rather than risk having them lost or injured in the Blitz."

One victim of the Blitz had a lucky break. A Scottie named Jock was rescued by the father of Brian Leonard, now a spokesman for the Kennel Club. "We lived in the country and had chickens, pigs and wild rabbits. Jock was an excellent ratter, so he was better fed than people on rations."

Cruft's Dog Show was abandoned for the duration of the war until 1948. During the war, the club changed the name of the German shepherd dog to alsatian and in 1977 changed it again to German shepherd dog (alsatian). In 1940, the number of alsatians registered with the club sank to 555. By 1947 it had soared to 11,787.

Dachshunds suffered physical abuse, and in 1939 their registered number at the club was 1,569, but by 1947 the figure rose to 5,248.

Rosemary Goudy, now secretary of the National Cat Club, had a blue Persian named Mitz, who "slept with me through every damned air raid there was". She says: "Mitz's diet was the same as ours — beans on toast, a bit of bacon if you were lucky. Spam, whalemeat, even Bovril with stale bread. You scrounged round the butcher and fishmonger for off-cuts."

Budgies had a bad time of rationing. The greatest problem was the shortage of seed, because most of it was imported. Fanciers

tried collecting seeds from weeds, but tens of thousands of budgies died from malnutrition. Harry Bryan, a world champion breeder, estimated that not more than 20 breeders managed to keep their budgies until the end of the war.

Jim Hutton, a breeder and international judge, remembers how the price of wartime budgie seed soared from 15 shillings (75p) to £100 a hundredweight — at a time when "every second or third house had a budgie".

In 1947, the pet-food industry was in its infancy and Pedigree was delighted to receive an order for 1,000 48-can cases of dog food. Today the company sells more than three million cases a day.

Robin Young discovers how the Palace used an ordinary household object in dog breeding

Royal rise of the corgi and dorgi

They say animal lovers make the best friends. The Queen's enthusiasm for dogs and horses is tempered with a lot of the sound, unfussy common-sense practicality which makes a sure foundation for a life, and a marriage.

Let me illustrate it with the only good gossip anecdote I have ever had direct from Buckingham Palace. As is pretty well known, the royal pets include a number of "dorgis" — crosses between the Queen's corgis and Princess Margaret's dachshunds. A more recent bit of cross-breeding, featuring a corgi with the head of a rottweiler, made headlines only last week. The dorgis always excited similar curiosity about how precisely they were achieved.

It was the royal photographer Norman Parkinson who, at lunch at the Palace one day, finally asked how the breeds could couple successfully, considering their different stature. The Queen was quite unfazed. "Oh," she said, "it's really very simple. We have a little brick."

How many of us, in need of a leg-up in life, might not have been grateful for just such a little brick?

The Queen's corgis are part of her childhood heritage. The first royal corgi was given to her father in 1933, when he was Duke of York. The dog, a Pembroke corgi, was called Dookie. He was chosen by the Queen Mother from three offered by his breeder, Thelma Gray, on the grounds that he was the only one with much of a stump where his tail had been docked.

"We must have the one which has something to wag," the then Duchess of York insisted. "Otherwise how are we going to know if he is pleased or not?" It was while the puppy was being house-trained by Mrs Gray that he got his name, having allegedly become too snooty after the royal decision that he would no longer eat from the same dish as the other puppies.

Princess Elizabeth was photographed at the age of seven leading Dookie as a puppy down railway station steps. The papers carried the picture because the corgi was then an unfamiliar breed that excited little attention among English breeders.

"Faces like foxes, rumps like guinea fowl, these little animals are trained to do the work of half a dozen men when rounding up cattle," the royal commentators assured their readers, though Dookie's abilities as a cattleherd were never seriously tested.

In 1938 Dookie was "married" to another Welsh corgi called Jane, who was installed to carry on the strain, and the Queen's enthusiasm for the breed was sealed when, for her 18th birthday, she was given her own corgi, Susan.

All the corgis still in residence at the royal palaces — currently their names are Phoenix, Pharos, Kelpie and Swift — are descended from the second and usually amiable Susan.

There are also four royal dorgis — Harris, Brandy, Cider and Berry — carrying on a tradition started in 1971 when one of the Queen's corgi bitches, Tiny, gave birth to seven puppies fathered by Margaret's dachshund, Pipkin.

The then secretary of the Kennel Club said: "The dachshund was evolved to chase badgers down holes, and corgis to round up cattle. If anyone loses a herd of cattle down a badger hole, these are just the dogs to get them out."

The royal association with corgis changed the breed's fortunes completely. By the time the present Queen celebrated her coronation the lowly, cattle-chasing corgi had raced up the ladder of popularity to stand fourth highest in favour on the Kennel Club registers, beaten only at that time by the cocker spaniel, the alsatian and the pekinese.

Dookie's parents were champions and he might have himself become a champion if ever exhibited, but he carried one of his breed's chief characteristics. Like most corgis he had inherited the habit of his cattle-driving forebears. He was likely to bite the ankles of anything that moved, so on official occasions had to be penned in a place of safety to stop him going for the guests.

Inevitably, though, the corgis' nippy habits have regularly made news. "Dog bites man" became, in defiance of Fleet Street lore, a headline. First one of the dogs (it could have been Susan, Sugar or Floney) laid into the legs of the royal clockwinder, Leonard Hubbard. Mr Hubbard refused to complain, although he had to admit that the attack on his right leg had left an inch-long cut.



Puppy love: Princess Elizabeth with Crickers, so-called because he was born on Christmas Eve

Next it was the turn of a palace sentry, a 23-year-old National Serviceman in the Grenadier Guards called Alfred Edge. This time the attacker was definitely identified. It was Susan, mother of the pack, who flashed at the guardsman's trousers and bit his left ankle. At the time Edge, in best regimental tradition, did not wince, but he had to get medical assistance two days later when the wound turned "a little septic".

Susan later improved her score by nipping various servants, a detective, and a patrolling policeman, while her grandson, Whisky, improved the game further by tearing the seat out of a Guards officer's trousers.

Of course, the Royal Family's attentions have not been confined to corgis. At the time of the Queen's accession, her kennels also housed Mimsey, a yellow Labrador retriever and her two puppies, Stiffy and Scrummy, and a Tibetan lion dog, Choo-Choo.

Ten years later the first dog the Queen entered in a dog show was one of Prince Philip's favourite gun dogs, a two-year-old black Labrador called Sandringham Ranger. (He came fourth out of five in a novice class at King's Lynn.)

The Queen has also kept budgerigars. Her racing pigeons win prizes, and since Monaghan won the First Chichester Stakes in 1949 her horses have won more than 600 races including all the English classics, except the Derby.

Her love of horses began when she was given a Shetland pony called Peggy when she was four, and her equine favourites since have included Betsy, a black-brown mare bought in her coronation year and Burmese, the black mare given to her by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police which she rode for the Trooping the Colour from 1969 until the mare's retirement in 1986. (The Queen has not ridden at a ceremonial occasion since.)

But probably none have been closer in the Queen's affections than the corgis. Her vet, Philip Grime, recounted how the Queen "dropped everything" to sit with her corgi, Tiny (mother of the first dorgis), when the little bitch was dying of acute gastro-enteritis.

And in the royal pet cemetery the little dogs are buried each beneath a headstone recording the dates of their births and deaths and with a little epitaph.

Susan's, for example, says: "For almost 15 years the faithful companion of the Queen."

And Sugar's: "For over 16 years the faithful companion of the Queen."



The King and Queen were both dog lovers

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Peace at last — but few broad beans.

Stephen Anderton waxes nostalgic

Memory can be remarkably selective. By the time of the royal wedding in November 1947, people wanted to forget the bitter, snowy weather of that spring and the storms and flash-floods of summer.

Carters, the seed suppliers, were apologising about the shortage of broad bean seeds that autumn. And Lord Aberconway, in his presidential address to the Royal Horticultural Society, remarked that horticulturally, the country was still in "the chill before the dawn" of better times. The country house estates were looking forward to getting away from the Dig for Victory mode and back to planting for pleasure.

"I am very fond of vegetables," Lord Aberconway said at the time, "but I do not wish to share my flower garden with vegetables in the same way that, while I am very fond of bacon, I do not wish to share my house with a pig."

Austerity reigned in gardening, as in everything else. Plants were scarce and expensive. To cheer people up, the Chelsea Show listed in its catalogue three pages of brass band concerts in Ranelagh Gardens.

With the approval of the Commons, postwar officialdom was required to wear a cheery face in the form of official window boxes — scarlet pelargoniums for the War Office and blue hydrangeas for the Admiralty. Parkers Bulbs could offer 100 silvery rose "Princess Elizabeth" tulips for 30 shillings (£1.50).

The Department of Trans-

port appointed an official to advise on the aesthetics of road planning, but in a hastily convened extraordinary general meeting, the Roads Beautifying Association decided not to disband (it had been at work since 1928), but to hang in there and keep an eye on DoT beautification.

In greenhouses, heating was still banned except for the production of tomatoes, lettuce, mustard and cress, and for the raising of young vegetables. Manpower was short, and the electric greenhouse heater was heavily promoted, because no one had to stoke it in the small hours.

Postwar gardening was blissfully unaware that many of its activities would be of serious concern to future gardeners.

Dry fibres of the fern *Osmunda regalis* were still for sale for orchid growing, although it is now recognised as having been almost cropped to extinction in some parts of Britain.

Water-worn limestone pavement (now a threatened habitat) could still be bought from Westmoreland and selected personally on site. It was delivered post-free. Limestone and tufa were still being sold from Matlock Bath in Derbyshire. Rock gardens remained a main competitive category of show gardens at Chelsea.

The year also saw advertisements for the ACME Powder Blower (patent pending), showing the blower puffing away at sweet little planet Earth with the new wonder chemical DDT, and colmel. The Walrus Power Distributor, with similarly global ambitions, ran an advertisement



The lack of able-bodied gardeners, absent on military duties, introduced a new generation to the horticultural effort on the home front

showing four of its guns enveloping the Earth in a vast cloud of DDT, like the cloud from the meteor strike that killed the dinosaurs.

As ever, commerce and science were slightly out of sync. Even in 1946, Lord Aberconway referred to research at Wisley on DDT, showing that this "powerful insecticide may have more results, some of them harmful, than perhaps some of us realise at the moment." How true.

In science especially, hindsight is a remarkable thing.

For the benefit of Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society, Lord Aberconway also attempted to explain the use of colchicine to "improve" plants by doubling their chromosome count. "What we are trying to do is to nearly kill the seedlings with chemicals, in the hope that the shock may induce them to become in their chromosomes tetraploid instead of diploid. It is as if you took a criminal and hanged him in the old-fashioned way. If you went on a little too long he was hanged and done for

and no use; if you stopped too soon it would also be of little use, as he would survive unchanged. But if you could stop at just the right place where he was nearly hanged, you might get out of him a reformed man." I think we can see what he meant.

Postwar lawnmowers of the cylinder variety, from Ransomes and Webbs and Dennis, looked almost exactly as they do today. More surprising is that rotary machines, such as

the Rotocut, were even then available, looking exactly like their modern counterparts. Al-lens, the first company to produce a self-propelled motor scythe, was proudly advertising its famous Autocut. I drove one of these in the late 1970s; it was rather like trying to cut grass with a hand-held Spitfire. You held on for dear life, fearing a crippling blow in the grassbox from the handlebars, as they leapt around. It was meadow gardening by rodeo.

During the war, the Grim Reaper had showed no brotherly affection for gardeners, and experienced men were hard to find. *The Gardeners' Chronicle* of November 15 1947, carried the following advertisement: "WANTED — UNDER GARDENER (with knowledge of bees and/or able to milk) to work in private garden being commercialised. Must have mechanical experience. Wife or daughter to work in the house an advantage. Semi-detached cottage (just done up), electric light, water, and sanitation. Bus route 5

mins. Wages and bonus to be discussed. What about this advertisement in *Horticulture Week*? "Conscientious couple required for gardening and household duties for family living in country house. Versatile gardener to work full-time in newly landscaped garden. Spouse to work part-time in the house. Remuneration to include refurbished coach house. Applications in writing with CV to the Agent." It was dated November 6, 1997. Plus ça change...

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Chelsea back on top with a dazzler

How the flower show swept back with only seven months' notice

For gardeners the war years had been drab as they channelled their efforts into the practical vegetable patch rather than the herbaceous border. But the 1947 Chelsea Flower Show was to change all that.

The Royal Horticultural Society was back in business, and no one can have been more delighted than the society's patron, George VI, a rhododendron man — no one, that is, unless it was the 2nd Baron Aberconway, the RHS president, whose rhododendron exhibit was to win a gold medal at the show.

Seven months earlier, in October 1946, Lord Aberconway had started a gathering of former Chelsea exhibitors saying: "Whatever else we go without, we should not go without a Chelsea Flower Show next year."

That they were being given just seven months' notice was alarming. Ornamental plants were scarce, glass had been blown out of countless greenhouses, transport was expensive and garden staff for the large estates was hard to come by. Could the owners of large estates still afford to place orders for thousands of plants a year at Chelsea? If not, who would step into their shoes? Few realised that hundreds of thousands of suburban gardeners might eventually make equally good customers.

Nevertheless, the show opened on Wednesday, May 21, 1947, with admission prices ranging from 2s 6d (12.5p) to ten shillings (50p). Top of the list of exhibitors was the King, who, with his Windsor gardener G. Simpson, showed schizanthuses. Queens formed an hour before the gates opened each day, and the band of the Grenadier Guards entertained the footsore with a medley of tunes including "Tchaikovsky's Valse des Fleurs", Waldteufel's *Christmas Roses* and J. S. Zieff's *Wedding of the Rose*.

This was a first Chelsea show for the floral artist and judge, Julia Clements, now Lady Saxon. "It was such a vast exhibit of colour," she recalls, "and that was wonderful after the drabness of war. I was judging flower arrangements. That year Lord Aberconway introduced some of the things we had seen in the USA, such as flower-arrangement exhibits, illuminated in niches of corrugated paper. But there was really no fair about the show. Nothing was three-dimensional. All the exhibits in the big marquee were on one level of



George VI ('a rhododendron man'), Queen Elizabeth and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret view Chelsea's ornamental rock garden in 1947

tabling because the RHS hadn't yet realised the value of presentation."

This was the first of 32 Chelseas for Sid Cox, then a 34-year-old nursery hand and plantman for Hillier & Sons of Winchester, Hampshire, which was exhibiting an informal garden. "We had a nursery at Chander's Ford where we could grow rhododendrons, and we used to dig up big plants to put on show. We would force them on if they were a bit behind, and if they were too far forward, we would hire cold storage in Kent. We needed nine lorries to take our exhibits to Chelsea."

What did he think of the other exhibits? "I preferred the Exbury displays, because they were from this end of the country," he says. In 1947, the gardens of Major Edward de Rothschild at Exbury, near South-

ampton, won a certificate signifying a first class award for its *Rhododendron* 'Lady Chamberlain' var 'Golden Queen' and a silver-gilt medal for a collection of azaleas.

Lord Aberconway did better, winning his gold medal for a group of 40 hybrid rhododendrons, raised by him and his gardener, F.C. Puddle, at his gardens at Bodnant in North Wales. His entries included the vivid crimson 'Laura Aberconway', the deep rose-coloured 'Radiance' and the pale pink 'Adio' (Adonis x 'Loderi'), which was showing for the first time.

Sutton & Son's vegetable pyramids drew every eye, and *The Gardener's Chronicle* was spellbound by the enormous spikes of delphiniums shown by Messrs Blackmore and

Langdon: "Some flowers measured over three inches across and the spikes were exceptionally well shaped," said the journal. Water-perry Horticultural School impressed with its strawberries and so did Slaymaker & Co. with its Slayaphis Nicotine Spray and Fumigant. Slayslug, Slayweed, Slayworm and other insecticides and fungicides.

The show went from success to success after 1947, as did the RHS careers of the Aberconways. Following his father, Charles McLaren, the present Lord Aberconway, 84, was president from 1961 to 1984 before becoming president emeritus. He is also the third member of his family to receive the RHS's Victoria Medal of Honour.

SUE CORBETT

1947 GARDENING NOTES

■ When Sir Henry and Lady Hoare died on the same day, March 25, 1947, the National Trust inherited their garden at Stourhead, Wiltshire, with its house and woodland. The landscaped garden, with lake and Classical temples, laid out by Henry Hoare in 1741-80, is open daily (01747 841152).

■ The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries urged gardeners to be on the lookout for the Colorado beetle, a yellowish pest with black vertical stripes and a deadly menace to the potato crop.

■ Harold Nicolson started his notebooks, *My Life's Work*, detailing his plans for, and progress on, the Lime Walk at Sissinghurst Castle Gardens in Kent.

GARDEN ANSWERS

Stephen Anderton replies to readers' queries in 1947

Q What is the name of the newly discovered "fossil" tree which I understand was found in China? — F. Lowry, Edinburgh.

A It is not every day an entirely new genus of tree is found and brought into cultivation, but it has happened this year. A rare deciduous conifer was found in a village in central China in 1941, having previously been known only from fossil remains. Further trees were found in 1944, and seed was sent to the Arnold Arboretum in America. Seedlings should be available for distribution to other gardens and arboreta in 1948. The proposed name is *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. It will be interesting to see how it grows in European gardens. Certainly it ought to be hardy, and it will add to the number of deciduous, autumn-colouring conifers we can grow. These include larch (yellow), swamp cypress (coppery) and ginkgo (yellow).

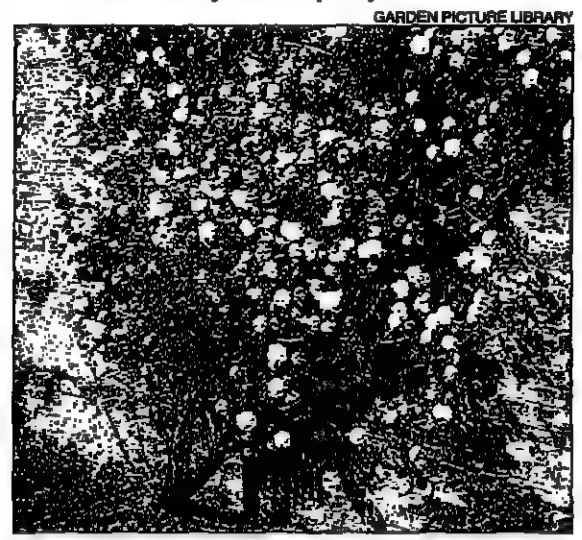
Q Can you suggest an evergreen shrub to plant by our back gate. I would like something with perfumed flowers. — D.V. Lynn, Knightsbridge.

A Why not try the new *Viburnum x burkwoodii*. It is virtually ever-

green and grows to about 8ft. The clusters of flowers open pinkish, then change to white. They open in April-May, but a few may come earlier if the weather is kind. It is available from the breeders, Messrs Burkwood and Skipwith of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, whose advertisements you will see in most gardening magazines. This viburnum has a Korean mother, the old favourite, fragrant, deciduous *Viburnum carlesii*. Its father was the evergreen *Viburnum urticifolium* from China.

Q I find the yellow-berried guelder rose looks pale and bleached in full sun. Can you suggest a strong-growing clone for sun? — R.S.V. Pea, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

A I suggest you plant a *Viburnum opulus* 'Noicum's Variety'. It is a strong grower to about 12ft high, with large, red berries and good autumn colour. Notcutts nurseries is this year celebrating 100 years of business. It is worth moving your yellow-berried plant into the shade, as guelder rose will stand any amount of rough treatment. But if it is really too big to move, then peg down a low branch into the soil to root itself; they will take very quickly.



Viburnum burkwoodii flowers in April

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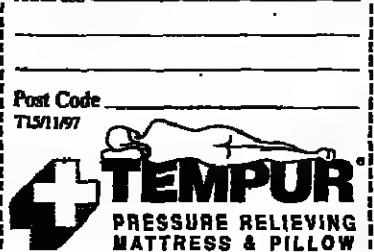
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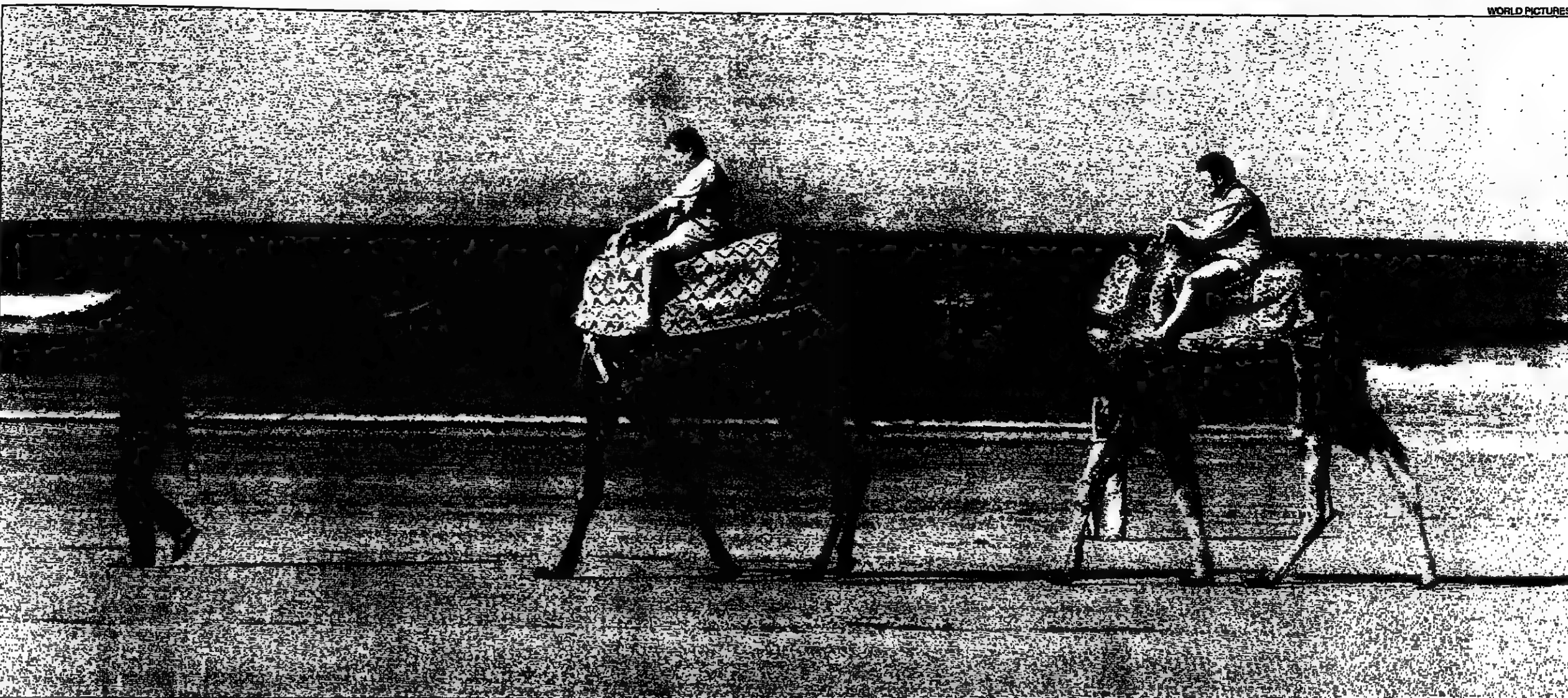
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Morocco: In the first of our series on winter sun destinations, Melissa de Villiers visits the resort of Agadir



Camel rides for tourists along Agadir's beach, the resort's biggest asset. Its six miles of caramel-coloured sand are swept each morning and regularly patrolled by mounted gendarmes to keep the hustlers away

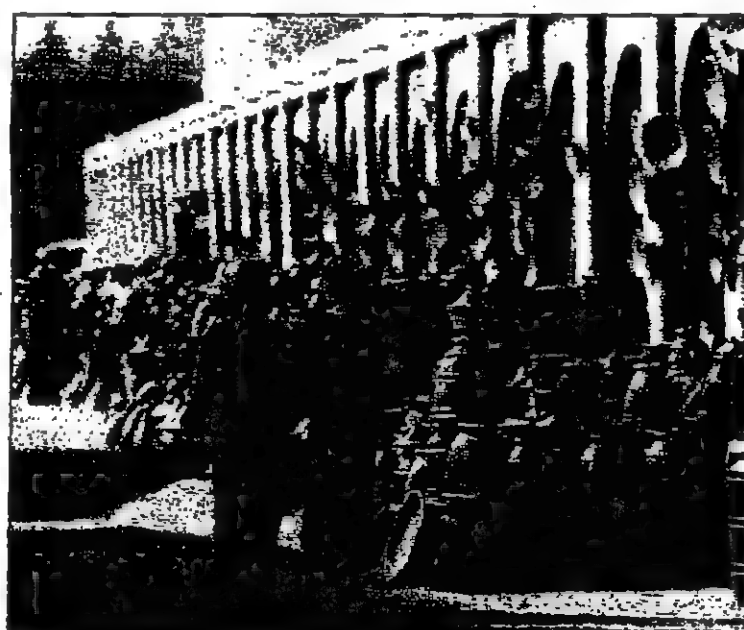
Just deserts all round

By the third day I was starting to feel restless. The sun blazed down, just as it had done the day before, on the crowded beach the same camels curled their lips at the bathers cheerfully braving the chilly Atlantic. Near the hotel steps, an old man selling silver jewellery squatted motionless on a raftered stool, his blue-tinted head in his hands. He looked utterly bored. Guiltily — for surely it must be a crime to feel restless in paradise — I empathised.

I had come to Agadir to relax for a week, lured by the promise of winter warmth (300 days of sunshine a year, the brochures claim) spiced with North African exoticism. Yet there was a nagging sense that something was missing. There was no shortage of sun (winter temperatures average about 75F), but so far this resort, orderly resort had not reverberated with the frantic concentration of colours, sounds and smells — the life — that had bowled me over on previous visits to Marrakesh and Fes.

"I feel very sorry for people who say they have been to Morocco when they have only been to Agadir," said Hassan, the hotel barman, when I confessed my treacherous thoughts over a poolside beer. "But you see, for Moroccans, Agadir is a real success story. It grew from such a terrible accident, and now the town is so much more important than it was before."

Hassan had a point. Established by the Portuguese in 1505, Agadir grew into a reasonably prosperous commercial centre, exporting sugar cane to Europe. Although by the middle of this century its fortunes had long since declined, Agadir remained a little port full of character — until February 2, 1960, when an earthquake razed it, killing 15,000 people and leaving most of the remaining 20,000 residents homeless.



The souk in Agadir: an earthquake in 1960 destroyed the town

The disaster occurred four years after independence, so Agadir's recreation as a showpiece modern resort — a symbol of the new, forward-thinking Morocco — became a matter of national pride. The taxi driver who took me up to the remains of the old kasbah, on a hill above the port, was far more concerned to point out the sweep of the new town below than to dwell on the ruins of Agadir's past beneath our feet. For him, the kasbah's crumbling arched gateway, with its inscription recording that The Netherlands began trading here in 1746, was just that — history.

Anne Denning, from Maidenhead in Berkshire, on holiday alone ("I needed a break"), was a fan. "Agadir may not be all that different from our way of life, but I enjoy the odd

touches such as the camel rides on the beach. There's none of the resentment you find back home about being part of the service industry here — I've been looked after really well. I'll definitely be coming back."

The resort is attractive, with green swaths of park and garden cutting through a whitewashed zone *touristique*, crisscrossed with low-rise hotels and self-catering apartments. The busy harbour — Agadir is Morocco's largest exporter of sardines — is backed by a teeming square, where stalls serve the freshly grilled catch of the day.

Shops in the town centre cluster round wide, jacaranda-lined boulevards utterly unlike the labyrinthine medinas of older Moroccan cities. And, of course, there is Agadir's chief

asset: six miles of caramel-coloured beach, swept each morning and regularly patrolled by mounted gendarmes to keep the hustlers away.

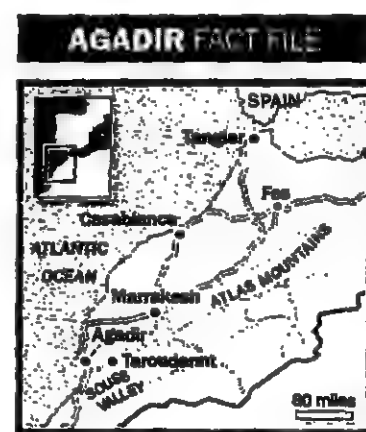
Agadir has novelty value if you are coming from anywhere else in Morocco. There is a welcome lack of the hassle you find in Marrakesh or Tangier; especially the youths who attach themselves to you as you leave your hotel, hoping to sell handicrafts or offering guide services at "special prices".

"We came here to have a lazy time, so we're not really interested in exploring," said Harry, a fellow holidaymaker who I met queuing for the breakfast buffet. "We did an excursion to Marrakesh the other day — a long day-trip in

a mini-bus — and that was quite enough. It feels much safer here."

The big beachfront hotels offer pretty much everything that is needed to unwind, from tennis courts set in landscaped gardens to watersports and the obligatory giant pool. Room-service menus offer chips and burgers; restaurants have "continental" set meals rather than Moroccan staples such as tagine or *bratilla* (pigeon pie).

Happy hours keep the drinks bills down, while organised entertainment, hotel discos and folklore evenings — where local dancers and musicians perform — are laid on, too. Anyone hoping for exotic intrigue redolent of *Casablanca* and the *Arabian Nights* may be disappointed by the rather jolly, team-spirit-



Calves rent out minibus and umbrellas from about £2 a day. Café-Bar Oasis, near the Tafoukt Complex, is particularly friendly and organised. Camel rides cost about £3 for 45 minutes. There is a strong undertow and children should not swim unless carefully supervised.

■ **GOLF:** the Club Les Dunes has 27 holes; the Royal Golf Club has 36. Green fees start at £24.

■ **WHEN TO VISIT:** winters (November to March) are sunny and temperate, with temperatures at about 22C. The high season in Agadir runs from late June to the end of August, when the heat can be stifling.

■ **WHAT TO TAKE:** sun hat, daypack, mosquito repellent, sunglasses, sunscreen, a camera. Dress modestly outside the zone *touristique*. Women should cover their shoulders and wear skirts or shorts that are at least knee-length — the more you cover, the less you will be harassed.

■ **READING:** *Morocco: the Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £9.99) is the pick of the guidebooks. Agadir is not well-represented in fiction or scholarly studies. *Hidden Kebab*, by Esther Freud, (Penguin, £5.99) is a fictional account of hippy travels through Morocco, seen through the eyes of a five-year-old. *The Spider's House*, by Paul Bowles (Abacus, £5.99) is a splendid political novel set in Fes during the last stages of French occupation.

■ **FURTHER INFORMATION:** Moroccan National Tourist Office, 0171-437 0073.

attention even inside the zone *touristique*, as I discovered on a late-afternoon stroll down the promenade. The furtive chorus of hissing from the men seated at the beachfront cafés — like air leaking from a stabbed Lilo — was hardly threatening, but not conducive to enjoying the sunset.

On my last morning I awoke to find a tall, three-masted fishing boat gracing the wide sweep of the bay. The bougainvillea glowed against my balcony wall in the early sun — then a blast of Muzak drifted up from the pool. It was time to move on.

Agadir is a convenient gateway to Morocco's impossibly romantic south, with its ancient trans-Saharan caravan routes, nomads and crumbling French Foreign Legion forts. I visited the little walled town of Taroudant, a bumpy two-hour drive through orange groves and argans — grey, crumpled trees, some of which were weighed down by goats nibbling meditatively at their fruit.

Here, against a backdrop of the High Atlas mountains, figures cloaked in sky-blue jellabas flitted noiselessly alongside monumental pink mud battlements. The cool smell of mint flavoured the dark alleys of the souks, where a mazaar began his midday call from an invisible mosque. This blend of history and romance was what I had come to Morocco for.

Smaller details impressed me, too. Taroudant's tiny souk turned out to be a better bet for souvenirs than Agadir's large, soulless one.

Back in the hotel lobby, I noticed a message for home-bound guests: "Please do not carry your swords through Customs — place them in your suitcase instead." That's Agadir all over. I thought, there's a Moroccan heart in there somewhere, but tucked safely away where it's difficult to see.



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A surfer rides a wave off Waikiki on Oahu's South Shore where the sea is relatively calm. By comparison, the North Shore attracts the biggest inshore boomers in the world



Keen Spencer Martin

FACT FILE

■ **Getting there:** Andy Martin flew with Air New Zealand (0171-839 1604), which flies from London Heathrow to Honolulu via Los Angeles without an overnight stop. Fares start at £490 return in November. Hawaii may also be included as one of many South Pacific stopovers on an Australia or New Zealand flight.

■ **Where to stay:** The only hotel on the North Shore of Oahu is the 1,000-acre Turtle Bay Hilton (57-0791) Kamehameha Highway, PO Box 187, Kahului HI 96731; tel 001 808 293 8811, fax 293 9147. Serious surfers will probably opt for the much cheaper Backpackers Vacation Inn, founded by Mark Foo, the Zen master of big-wave surfing who died in a Californian wipeout (59-788) Kamehameha Highway, Haleiwa HI 96712; tel 001 808 638 7833; fax 638 7515. Island Resort & Spa (92-001) Olani Street, Kapolei HI 96707-2203; tel 001 808 679 0079, fax 679 0080, on the southwest corner of the island, has everything but waves.

■ **Where to go:** The antithesis to Honolulu is Haleiwa on the North Shore, a whitewashed small town that Steven Spielberg might have invented, with great cafes, gospel-rocking churches and, above all, surf-shops.

Niagara with propellers on

Only the best surfers are drawn to Hawaii. Andy Martin hears tales of extreme bravery on some of the world's most dangerous waves

It's no big thing, bro!" said the guy at the lost-luggage office when I complained that our bags had gone missing. "You won't be needing no clothes in Hawaii."

He had a point: even in winter, shorts and T-shirt are still standard. But with a wife and two boys in tow that's still a lot of shorts and T-shirts. It was my tenth time in Hawaii, but the first with my family. I kept telling them that it was strictly business, but they suspected I was having too much fun whenever I went to do some more "research" (mainly on surfing) and so they decided to tag along.

An old friend loaned us his house on the North Shore of Oahu, the main island. "House" is a slight exaggeration: "shack" might be more accurate, or "hut". But it has the perfect location, looking out over the huge and voluptuous rollers of Sunset Beach. The view from the crow's nest, consisted of spindly palm trees swaying in the breeze and the immense Pacific beyond. A functioning roof and a few windows would have been nice, too. When the rain came down and the wind blew during the night, the elements hit you head-on. I was used to roughing it on the North Shore, but the lack of a decent bed was a shock to my wife.

On the North Shore there are worse things than discomfort: death, for example. Only the week before, one of the locals, the veteran big-wave operator Todd Chesser, had paddled out at Alligators, south of Waimea Bay, lusting after some buxom waves and ran smack into the aquatic equivalent of Arnold Schwarzenegger. A two-wave hold-down turned out to be his final

wipe-out. And just last month, Ted Deerhurst, the viscous and veteran surf-pro who had lived on the North Shore for several years, was killed in a surfing accident.

When Michael Willis — one half of the legendary Willis Bros, surfers *extraordinaires* — came to call, he was on crutches. "Dog bit me," he said. It was a 25-foot rotweiler at Outside Backyard. The Willis Bros specialise in tow-in or power surfing — classical surfing with a Yamaha waverunner, which tows you into the path of monsters that would otherwise be impregnable. When his waverunner's engine stalled right in the maw of one salivating beast, Michael and his partner bailed out, but the tow-rope coiled around his leg like the

giant squid from *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. He was dragged underwater for a full minute.

"Weren't you worried about running out of breath?" I gasped. "Nah," he said, "I was worrying too much about my leg." He told us of a friend who went out in big surf and all they ever found was his wetsuit: he'd been squeezed out of it like a banana.

The Hawaiian approach to big-wave surfing includes a definite streak of death wish and my wife, Heather, worried about the survival prospects of our sons, Spencer and Jack, on the North Shore.

Although, at six and four respectively, they were keen to begin the long apprenticeship in the art of surfing, even they were wary of waves you could lose a dinosaur in *Jurassic Park*, incidentally, was filmed on the next island, Kauai. Fortunately, we found some quiet lagoons for them.

The North Shore in winter is Niagara with propellers on. This is the heaviest impact zone in the world. The Hawaiian islands are essentially a bunch of volcanoes poking out of an ocean trench and every passing swell trips over them. Surfing the resulting killer waves is like jumping off a

three-storey house, which then chases you down the street. The consolation is that at least you drown warm.

If that prospect is not enticing, you can always just watch the surfers duel with one of the most powerful forces in nature. Big-wave riding is probably the most breathtaking spectator sport on earth and Waimea Bay is its Colosseum, the hottest of hollies. It attracts the biggest inshore boomers in the world. When these 30ft high babies go off it's like a small earthquake.

This is where Patrick Swayze came to die in the last

reel of *Point Break*. But the real thing is even better than Hollywood and pulls in massive crowds. On a big day in winter people from around the island flock to the bay to watch all that power unloading. Like front-row Romans falling prey to particularly ferocious lions, unwary Waimea wave-watchers who get too close are liable to be scooped up and eaten for lunch. It's all good business for the lifeguards.

On the subject of being eaten, I think it was only after we saw the photograph on the front of the *North Shore News* captioned "Swimmer Bitten by Shark" (actually, the guilty

party was later identified as a barracuda), that we fled south, driving through the pineapple plantations, past fields of coffee bushes and sugar cane, towards "Babylon".

Oahu divides neatly into town and country. Country is the North Shore — pagan, Dionysian, epic, slightly unhinged. Town is the more materialist, less mythic Honolulu, nearly an hour's drive away on the freeway (or a couple of days if you hike across the jungle interior). The palm trees are the same but the sea is more civilised on the South Side and the waves are more child-friendly (the opening sequence of *Hawaii Five-O* was shot on the North Shore). "It's a tourist trap!" I grumbled. "Maybe it is," my wife replied, "but at least the hotels

have roofs and windows." Babylon was the name Milton Willis, the other half of the Bros, gave Honolulu. "This is a place of sin, no mistake," he observed as he dropped us off, "and as places of sin go, it's one of the best." This time around I would have to skip the "esoteric dancing" at the Rock-Za Club. But my wife still had the opportunity to observe sin at close quarters when a local photographer persuaded her to part with \$20 for a few pictures of the boys with a parrot on their shoulders, which he promised he would deliver personally. She might as well have set fire to that twenty. Sometimes it's safer in the pounding surf than on the beach at Waikiki.

Down on the southwestern corner of the island, 20 minutes from the airport, the Ihilani (which means something like "heavenly splendour") is a small artificial paradise, carved out of lava rock and marble. Children can disport themselves in a tranquil blue lagoon that keeps man-eating waves and barracuda at bay. The only sharks are rather tame fellows who inhabit the hotel fishpond. The hotel not only has a roof (and a spa and a golf course), but it is secluded enough to exclude the maddening crowds of Honolulu. We were supposed to be there only for one night. But when it was time to catch the plane home, my wife had other ideas. "I'm not leaving!" she declared. "I deserve this after a week in that shack!" We flew out standby three days later.

● *Andy Martin is the author of a book about the history of surfing, Walking on Water (Minerva, £5.99).*

ANDY MARTIN

Go and surf the Eddie – if you dare



Wave power: all you need in Hawaii is a surfboard

THE Eddie is epic, monumental, the ultimate. The Eddie is less a sports event than the manifestation of a superhuman force. The "Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau" is a surfing contest *sine qua non*. While pro contests around the world can be played out on waves 2ft high, the Eddie can take place only in consistent 20ft-plus conditions.

Most big sports contests take place at a particular hour on a particular day. The Eddie takes place between November and February — maybe. When it does happen it is only at Waimea Bay, on the North Shore of the main Hawaiian island of Oahu, the third largest of the Hawaiian islands and the most sacred site of surfing, where the biggest waves in

the world come to die every winter, and where Eddie Aikau, the legendary big-wave surfer, once manned the life-guard tower.

On March 16, 1978, a Hawaiian-style, double-hull canoe, the *Hokule'a*, set out from Honolulu to retrace the itinerary that brought the first Hawaiians from Tahiti a millennium and a half ago. Among the 16-man crew was Eddie Aikau. When the boat capsized in a storm, Eddie set off on his 12ft rescue board for help. The rest of the crew was rescued, but Eddie vanished and his body was never found.

Now, every winter, a couple of dozen of the best surfers in the world reunite to pay homage to Eddie by surfing his kind

of waves — and competing for a \$60,000 cheque. As in ancient times in Hawaii, the winner is the man who surfs the biggest waves with the greatest style. The event takes only a few hours. But when it is not happening, nearly everyone on the North Shore is thinking, talking and dreaming about it. People tap you on the shoulder and say, "Pst ... the Eddie's on tomorrow, it's definite."

Old hands learn to take these predictions, usually born of wishful thinking and astrological consultations, with a pinch of salt. My experience is that the Eddie generally does not happen until the day after I fly out.

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HAWAII: WALKING THE WILD SIDE

The islands that taste forgot

Hawaii may be
naïf but that's
part of its
charm, says

Susannah Jowitt

I am in a war zone. On either side of the path, pitched battles are being fought between the few remaining Hawaiian natives and a fearsome host of rapacious invaders. Red corpses lie crushed underfoot. Twisted lumps of lava are scattered all around. Above me, a large indigenous character is struggling off the stranglehold of a punier attacker.

This is no new conflict, but a war that has been going on since at least the 1920s, when Oahu was reforested. For I am on a hike — from the Manoa Cliffs to the Pauoa Flats — into the hills of this Hawaiian island, and the foot soldiers here are the lush plants.

Non-native guava bushes have slugged it out with gentler fruit producers by preventing their germination and now dominate. A ginger plant has stamped on its neighbours by sending out choking underground runner roots in every direction. Leaf skeletons flutter inexorably towards a crumbly grave.

Fibrous roots lie in wait to trip up the careless and alien banyan trees all around strangle their weaker neighbours. There is even a tragic story of star-crossed botanical lovers' separation: the native naupaka bush that grows up here in the highlands grows only half a blossom of each flower, while those on the coast grow the other half.

One hundred years ago, nearly 95 per cent of Hawaii's flora was unique — with few trees and a host of lush plants

We brush our
shoes of any
alien seeds
that might
have travelled
with us

— but, like any complacent empire, it was a prime target for invasion by more Darwinist species brought by visitors to the islands. It took a while for the Hawaiians to realise but now the fight to prevent the spread of non-native germination is beginning to gain momentum. Before setting off on our hike, we brush our shoes of any alien spores or seeds that might have travelled with us.

The effort comes almost too late. In the fertile verandah of this tropical island, the speed of the subjugation was dizzying, and native plants are now at 1 per cent. The vertiginous volcanic slopes are thickly carpeted with trees and bushes, the hike trails are tangled with a botanical tapestry of many colours, scents and species, and the undeniable beauty of Oahu is like the orchids that fill every hotel lobby: hybrid, not entirely natural but still seductive. And this is the charm of Hawaii. We know it's naïf, we can smile behind our hands at the hula dancing, we can roll our eyes at the outrageously patterned skirts but we cannot help but be seduced.

It's like going to that other great icon of Americana: Disneyland. There, you put aside grown-up thoughts and romp forward into a kaleidoscope of childish pleasures. In Hawaii, you similarly put aside British ideas of restraint and dive into the crashing waves of Hawaiian kitsch. After all, the locals wear as many Hawaiian shirts as the tourists: everyone but everyone says "Aloha" like a verbal reflex and Hawaiian culture is on display wherever you go.

They even have a royal family — one for each island. It may not be the real thing — they died out at the beginning of this century — but, in their



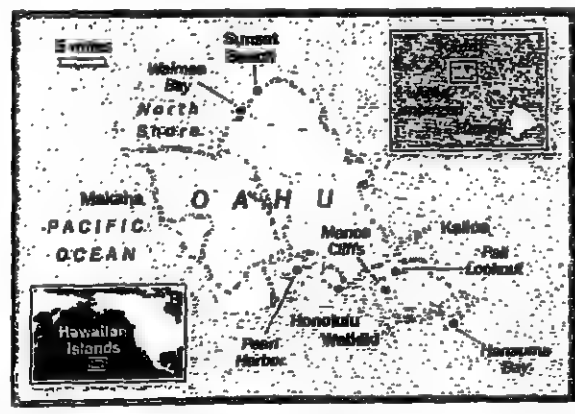
To avoid the crowds on Waikiki Beach, try the excellent snorkelling at Hanauma Bay, above, or go hiking in Hawaii's lush interior

HOW TO BOOK 'EM, DANNO

■ Susannah Jowitt travelled as a guest of the Kahala Mandarin Oriental (0800 962667), British Airways (0345 222111), Hawaiian Airlines (01753 664406) and North America Travel (0171-938 3737). An eight-night holiday with North America Travel, based on two adults sharing a room, costs from £1,427 per person, including return flights from Heathrow to Los Angeles with British Airways; one night at the Ritz-Carlton in LA (room only); return flights with Hawaiian Airlines to Honolulu; seven nights' accommodation at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental (room only); airport tax and transfers. Until March 31, the Kahala Mandarin offers B&B in an ocean view double room for £239, or £179 in a mountain view room.

■ Reece Olavay (001-808 683 3967) specialises in guided, ecological hikes on Oahu. Susannah Jowitt's cost US\$50 (£30 per person for a half-day hike; lunch and day-pack provided).

■ Guidebook choice: Hawaii (Lonely Planet, £12.99; Hawaii (Rough Guides, £10.99).



flame-coloured, crushed-velvet court regalia and splendid headdresses, they put on a pretty good show.

When I talk to the "king" and "queen" of Oahu, moreover, it becomes clear that they aren't just a tourist attraction. Purebred Hawaiian natives are almost as rare as the indigenous plants — only about 6 per cent of the population — but the king and queen must have at least 25 per cent pure Hawaiian blood.

Elected each year on the basis of their lineage, they perform a variety of tasks

beyond showing off their gladiators to sunbathers lolling on hotel loungers. "We visit schools to teach them about our culture and visit old people's homes," says King Jopathan, a former policeman, when I seek a royal audience. "Until ten years ago, Hawaiian culture and language had nearly died out, so we are here as much to educate our own people as we are to entertain the tourists."

Most sunbathers in the main tourist area of Waikiki Beach, however, have no interest in Hawaii beyond their hotel, the beach or their surfboard. With their inhumanly short holidays, most Americans and Japanese come here to crash into the waves and crash out on the sand. They get married by the hotel pool, the brides meringue dresses billowing like spinners in the ever-present tradewinds; they spend their yen or dollars on Yves Saint Laurent in Waikiki's many designer shops; they dutifully drink their mai-tai cocktails and go on perhaps one hotel-organised lunch cruise.

British visitors, who travel halfway round the world, are a little more demanding. For behind the beaches of Waikiki,

with their spit-roasted sun-worshippers and a giddy range of Asiatic faces and bodies, the spangly ukulele music in every bar and the surfer dudes, there is a Hawaii that few bother to discover.

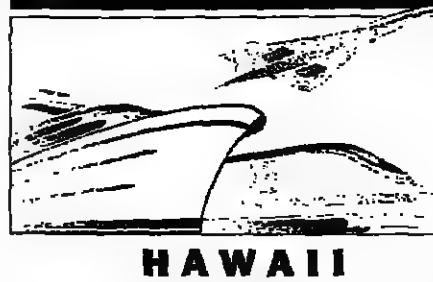
"Waikiki is a toilet," says one Englishman succinctly. "The sand may be white, the sea may be blue but it's just a tropical Costa del Sol that takes 15 hours to fly to. Yet only a few miles away, the hiking is staggeringly beautiful, the snorkelling — if you get to Hanauma Bay early — is fantastic and the North Shore is a paradise. Go up to the Pali Lookout, visit the Arizona War Memorial, admire the surfers at Waimea Bay — and just use Waikiki Beach as a good value, comfortable, soulless place to stay."

Unlike the hiking paths, the war memorial, the testament to the carnage of Pearl Harbor in 1941, is one war zone that Waikiki-goers might make time for, if the queues are anything to go by. It's free and is a stunning demonstration of sensitive commemoration to the 2,400 American sailors killed here by the Japanese in that one raid. It is also very spooky.

Shifting waves over the sunken, but clearly visible Arizona battleship and the bubbles of oil still escaping after 46 years, make it look alive. Todd the Ranger insisted on silence before we watched the poignant black-and-white film and it lasted for our view of the memorial itself. All we heard were the haunting strains of the carillon playing *For Those in Peril on the Sea*. The contrast between the shrieking lobster tans and pineapple shirts of the tourists and the eerie silence as they filed through was extraordinary.

And that is Hawaii all over: a contrast between the balmy breezes and lapping waves at one end of the island and the raging surf at the other; between the brochure-friendly scenery of the coastline and the rapaciousness of nature in the highlands; between the bulky boisterousness of American holidaymakers and the sometimes sombre-seeming unobtrusiveness of their Japanese counterparts; between the quiet restraint of Pearl Harbor and the brazen hoopla of the hula evenings. In a two or three-week holiday, British visitors can wander about the battlefield as will and sample the best of Hawaii.

NOW BOARDING



■ Who goes there? Japanese honeymooners, American sailors and wannabe ukulele-players.

■ Getting the ball rolling: Watch *Hawaii Five-O* to get in the mood: it's back every weekday on cable channel, Granada Plus. Then ring the Hawaii Visitors' Bureau on (0181-94) 4009 or go online at <http://www.gohawaii.com>

■ Perfect timing: Martini-style sunbathing any time, any place, anywhere — but surf is seasonal: North Shore in winter, South Shore in summer. Very occasional hurricanes September to January. Warm tradewinds make it breezy — so no mosquitoes on the coast.

■ Suitcase strategy: Take basic toiletries — Waikiki shops are too busy selling Versace and Chanel (more sold here than in Paris) to care about toothpaste and cleanser. Bring back love handles (the buffet breakfasts are fatal), and naïf presents. Kona coffee and, go on, an old-style Hawaiian shirt. Melatonin pills for avoiding jetlag on the flight back.

■ The pound in your pocket: The pound is still strong against the dollar — currently at \$1.6915. Tip at 15 per cent.

■ Turn of phrase: Say "Book 'em Danno!" a few times just to get in the mood. Hawaiian is spelt phonetically: saying Wai-ki-ree not Wai-keeki shows you're paying attention.

■ Aloha! means, variously, hello, goodbye, love and just about anything else. Flower worn behind right ear means you're taken; behind the left and you're available.

■ Big no-nos: Don't sunbathe topless — it's illegal on American public beaches. Don't be homophobic same-sex marriage is about to be made legal. Don't flinch when garlanded with the inevitable lei, when pulled up to dance the hula, or when that pita colada arrives with no less than four cocktail umbrellas. Hawaii is naïf. Get used to it.

■ Nasty surprises: Locals drool for Shave Ice — think Slush Puppy with extra E-numbers. Poi, another Hawaiian delicacy, is like mauve, tasteless semolina. Avoid both like the plague. Choose carefully where to surf — big waves can break in only 5ft of water.

■ Not to be missed: The Arizona War Memorial: sunken warship and watery grave to 1,100 men in Pearl Harbor. Sunset. Deserted beaches on the North Shore. Dolphins at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental hotel. Breakfast.

■ Way to go: Fly to Hawaii via Los Angeles or San Francisco. No need to change planes with United or Air New Zealand: BA, Virgin, American and Continental send passengers on from the mainland with Hawaiian Airlines.

■ Any good packages? Hawaiian Travel Centre (0171-706 4142) charges about £1,000 for two-week packages, but for a longer stay, Page & Moy (016 250 7575) offers £899 for three weeks in Waikiki with the choice of spending two nights at beginning or end in Los Angeles, San Francisco or Las Vegas. Bigger operators offer add-ons, such as Kuoni's (01306 742888) "Wonders of the West" 14-night fly-drive around California, followed by seven nights in Hawaii — from £1,299pp plus £260 for the car in California.

■ Dull but essential: No visa necessary for British visitors staying less than 90 days. No jabs necessary.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND & FRENCH CANADA

Autumn in the North East of America and Canada is a very special time. For our visit in 1998 we have asked Buck Tours, a top notch company to make our arrangements. They are without doubt the best and most experienced company in North America offering fully escorted coach tours on a deluxe basis.

They use top quality coaches, the best of hotels and their philosophy is to include as much in the arrangements as possible.

Autumn in New England comes high on most travellers' "must do list". Whilst in New England it makes sense to hop across the border into French Canada, which also enjoys a colourful and warm fall. The combination of both areas produces a wonderful, balanced and interesting tour incorporating the charm of colonial New England with the unique character French Canada.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to New York. Early afternoon departure with British Airways. Arrive New York and drive to the Marriott East Side Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

Day 2 New York City. Depart from New York by coach after breakfast. Travel along the Connecticut Coast and north to old Sturbridge Village, a remarkable reconstruction of early American architecture.

Day 3 Boston. Tour Boston and Cambridge taking in the early landmarks of Faneuil Hall, Old State House and the South Meeting House. Visit the Old North Church and in Cambridge Harvard University and the War Collection. Afternoon free to enjoy Quincy Market and the historical sights.

Day 4 The Rocky Coast of Maine. Motor north along the rockbound coast to Portsmouth, New Hampshire to see the 18th century homes of the merchants. Continue along the Maine coast through picturesque small towns whose livelihood has been earned from the sea for centuries. Stay 2 nights at the Bar Harbour Inn at Bar Harbour.

Day 5 Acadia National Park. Drive to the nearby Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island, a beautiful forested area of sheltered harbours and coves.

Day 6 Maine to Quebec. Drive to the interior of the state to a vast land of lakes and forests

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Day 7 Quebec City. Explore the old quarter with its cobblestone streets, passages and 17th century buildings. Later visit the impressive Citadel.

Day 8 St Lawrence / St Laurentians. Drive west following the St Lawrence River along the route of the early French explorers and fur traders. Pass Three Rivers and Cap de la Madeleine driving through the fertile farmlands of the St Lawrence Valley to the wooded Laurentian Mountains. Travel north to Ste Adèle for lunch and in the afternoon cruise on the beautiful Lac des Sables. Our overnight stop will be at Chateau Mont Tremblant, wonderfully situated at the foot of the tallest peak in the Laurentians.

Day 9 Mont Tremblant / Montreal. Spend a relaxing morning in this delightful area before continuing our journey through the mountains bound for Montreal. We will take lunch at a French country style restaurant deep in the woods, then continue to Montreal, Canada's most cosmopolitan city. Stay 2 nights at the deluxe Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

Day 10 Montreal. A morning excursion of this dynamic city will include the Notre Dame Cathedral, St Joseph's Oratory, McGill University and Mount Royal as well as old Montreal and Place des Armes.

Day 11 Stowe / Killington. Enjoy the pastoral beauty of Vermont's Green Mountains. We will head south to the peaceful village of Stowe. Take the gondola to the summit of Mt Mansfield (4,393ft), the ski capital of the East. After lunch at an historic New England inn continue driving south to Killington for an overnight stay at the Corina Inn.

Day 12 Connecticut River Valley. Drive through beautiful Northern Vermont and the Connecticut River Valley. Our farewell lunch will be in a delightful New England restaurant. Then continue to New York's JFK Airport in time for British Airways' flight to London.

Day 13 London Heathrow. Arrive in the morning.

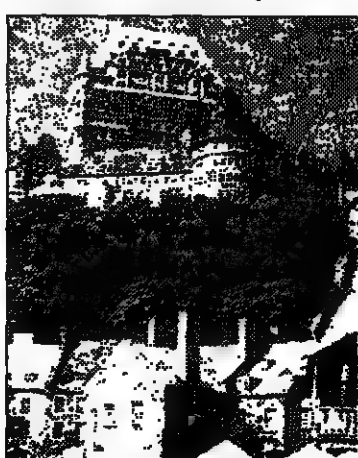
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Not included: Travel insurance, gratuities

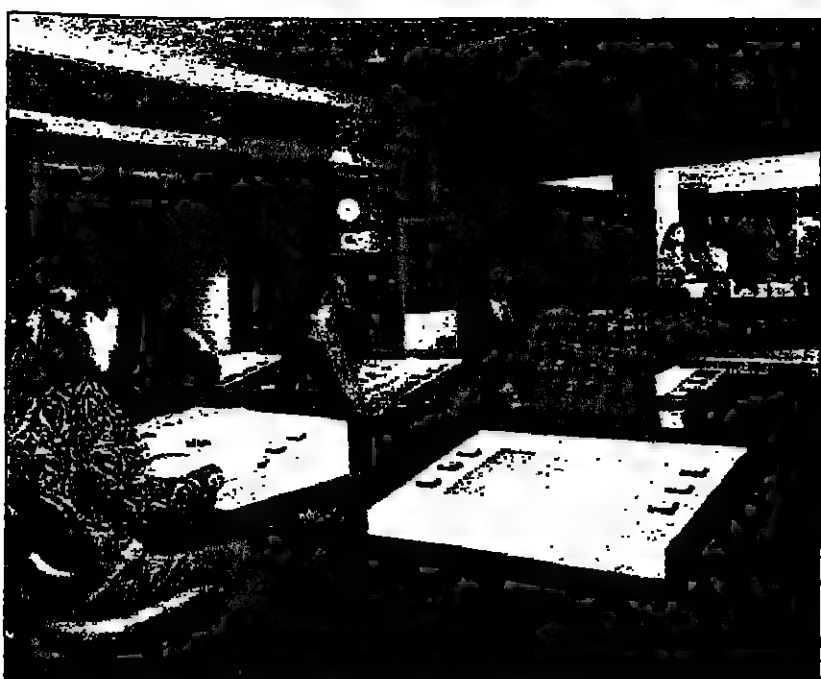


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The studio at Broadcasting House where visitors stage their own plays is a great favourite; Katie Webster operating Badger and Mousie; and a video of a Day in the Life of Broadcasting House shown in the mini-cinema

Terrific travels with my Auntie

We can all have 15 minutes of fame at the new BBC Experience, as Tom Chesshyre discovers

If you could take one luxury item to your desert island, what would it be? asks Sue Lawley. There's a pause while Simon Meredith, a seven-year-old from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ponders his answer. "A football," he replies purposefully. The video-recorded Lawley arches an eyebrow and smiles. "An excellent choice," she says before asking him what he would like to read "some Dandy comics" and what music he would bring ("er... I don't know").

"Interesting," and "how wonderful," Lawley replies, beaming away on the huge television screen. An interactive *Desert Island Discs* display is just one of the attractions at the BBC Experience, a new visitor centre highlighting the history of BBC television and radio at Broadcasting House. It was opened at the end of October by the Queen — who enjoyed the section on *The Archers* and met the actress Barbara Windsor ("Mrs Windsor meets Babs Windsor" the headlines said) — as part of the BBC's 75th anniversary celebrations.

So far, the BBC Experience has been a knockout success and has sold out every day. More than 20,000 tickets have been booked and about 200,000 visitors are expected in the first year. I joined a tour on the first weekend to find out what all the fuss is about.

Despite all the hype, the queue was short, tours run every 15 minutes and you can book tickets by phone for a specific time, so Madame Tussauds-style waits are unlikely. The displays are kept in a labyrinth of dark rooms and passages in the basement of Broadcasting House — you descend several stairways, passing a model of a hideous *Red Dwarf* alien as well as glossy pictures of BBC stars, such as Terry Wogan, the *Today* programme's John Humphrys and *Grandstand*'s Sue Barker.

The first part of the 90-minute guided tour concentrates on BBC radio. It starts



The comedian Tony Hancock in real life, left. At the BBC Experience is an exhibit with a semi-animatronic figure of Tony Hancock, right, based on his 1961 Radio Ham sketch.

with several exhibits covering the work of Guglielmo Marconi, one of the principal founders of the British Broadcasting Company in 1922 and recognised as the pioneer of the wireless. There are all sorts of technical bits and pieces: transmitters, valves, receivers and several microphones — one of which was used by King George V to broadcast to the Empire on Christmas Day in 1932.

How do radio waves work? a grandchild asks a grandparent, who is caught off-guard and ums and ahs before pointing at an explanatory display with relief and saying: "Just like that dear."

A friendly guide in a red jumper leads us to a mini-cinema, where we are shown a (slightly self-congratulatory) video of a day in the life of Broadcasting House. There are behind-the-scenes shots of Radio 5 morning traffic bulletins, Jonathan Dimbleby's *Any Answers?* and Steve Wright's Radio 2 show. The five-minute film ends with an evening performance by the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Albert Hall.

Things liven up in the next section, where the 30 tour members are invited to take part in producing a radio play called *The Dinner Party*. We are divided into groups of actors, sound-effects specialists and technicians — everyone is given a script with clearly marked cues. There is a brief rehearsal while we read



Elizabeth Webster has a go at being a weather presenter, while listening to recorded instructions from Bill Giles

through lines, press buttons to make bell sounds and get the knack of popping the cork on a fake champagne bottle. A red light turns on and the guide calls "Action!"

Everything goes surprisingly well and we are soon listening to a recording of our smooth three-minute production. The plot was about a group of friends who break down in a car on a stormy night and seek help at a

dilapidated mansion, where a dinner party is being held. When one of the friends asks what is on the menu, there is a flapping sound (made by an umbrella opening and shutting) and Dracula flies in and cackles: "You! The kids — who volunteered to be the actors — loved it and are clearly proud of their efforts. 'Well done everyone,' says the guide. 'That was much better than usual.'"

Then we are taken down memory lane with a series of film clips and radio recordings from BBC news reports and entertainment shows. There are original recordings of Neville Chamberlain's announcement of war with Germany in 1939, Winston Churchill's "never in the field of human conflict" speech, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, Kate Adie's Tiananmen Square report ("That was before you were born, darling," a mother informs her daughter), clips of Bette Davis and Noel Coward as well as Dylan Thomas reading *Under Milk Wood*.

Some of the elderly members of the group are clearly moved. "That was wonderful," says Henry Douglas, from Trim in County Meath. "I hadn't heard Dick Barton, Special Agent for about 40 years. I used to rush home from work on my bicycle to catch the 7pm broadcast — it always made my day."

The highlight of the BBC Experience comes next: the interactive section, which contains a series of displays like the *Desert Island Discs* one. The children run wild pressing buttons, making recordings and playing with television cameras — everybody's having a great time.

The *EastEnders* display is particularly popular. You are put in charge of four cameras shooting the same scene from different angles — by cutting between them, you create your own version of the scene. Alex

Bygrave, 13, from Norwich, is thrilled. "I've got a bit of a crush on Joe," she says after editing a version in which the camera lingers for long periods on the *EastEnders* heart-throb. "So it was brilliant to direct his scene — he's my favourite character."

At another display, you can record and play back your own commentary over clips of famous sporting moments. David Johnson, 10, from Islington, North London, chooses Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semi-finals of Euro 96. "And here comes Gareth Southgate," he says. "He's looking confident, but he must be feeling quite nervous. The whistle's gone, he's running up and — Oh my God! — he's missed it!" John Motion eat your heart out.

For older visitors, there's an exhibit with a semi-animatronic figure of Tony Hancock based on his 1961 Radio Ham sketch, as well as the chance to use a sound mixer to edit a recording by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

There are also several computer terminals, at which you can search for Internet sites to look up the latest news reports. "I'm getting quite carried away with it all," says Barbara Howells, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, after calling up an up-to-the-minute report on the Louise Woodward case on a computer. Mrs Howells is clearly fascinated. "The whole tour has been wonderful fun,

TV TRAVEL SHOWS

JUDITH Chalmers has presented travel on television for 25 years. Few remember her before she had a suntan. But as she prepares for the next series of *Wish You Were Here?*, armchair travellers are offered shows featuring more celebrities than a Virgin flight to Los Angeles.

With Judith appearing only every second week, Anthea Turner has assumed the travel crown on *WYWH?*, which begins a new series in January. But in catching the new mood of travel TV, the series will feature the Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman and the former Page Three girl Linda Lusardi among guest presenters.

Over on BBC1, Jill Dando continues to front *Holiday*, which began a new run of 25 shows last month. Guest presenters include Oz Clarke. And in Channel 4's *Travelog*, starting in January, the actress Heather Mills — who lost part of her leg in a motorbike accident — will visit Croatia. TRAVEL ON TV: BBC1: *Holiday*, Tuesday, 7pm; *Watchdog*, Thursday, 7pm; *Holiday Repts*, Thursday, 8.30pm. BBC2: *The Travel Show*, Christmas special; *Modern Times*, Wednesday, 9pm. ITV: *Wish You Were Here?* New series begins January 5, Mondays, 7pm. Channel 4: *Travelog*, new series in January; Channel 5: *Was it Good For You?* Thursday, 8pm.



Broadcasting House: home of the BBC

particularly the radio section. I was brought up on radio and have loved rehearsing snippets from events like the Coronation."

Those behind the BBC Experience say they have tried to strike a balance between exhibits suiting adults and children. "There's something for all ages," a spokeswoman said. "The older generations prefer the radio stuff and the kids like the latest TV exhibits."

The most popular interactive display is a filming booth in which you can be a weather presenter. Louise Saunders, 10, from Lincoln, is listening to recorded instructions from Bill Giles, the weather presenter. There's a countdown and then

off she goes: "We've got rain coming in over here," she says, oblivious to the fact that she's waving her arms in the wrong direction, until she watches the playback in fits of laughter.

Her mother, Kate, summed up the general feeling: "It's good fun, isn't it? The kids have been kept occupied with all the activities. It's definitely been worth the visit."

● The BBC Experience, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA (0870 603 0304, local rates) is open seven days a week, 9.30am-5.30pm. It is advisable to book in advance. Tickets cost £5.75 for adults, £4 for children 5-16 (under-fives free), £4.35 for students and OAPs.

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Malaria: Experts have issued new advice after concern over pills, writes Fred Mawer

Keep your shirt on to avoid jungle fever

THE LATEST ADVICE ON ANTIMALARIAL PILLS

ADVICE just published on the antimalarial drug mefloquine will be crucial to many holiday-makers considering a winter-sun break. Mefloquine, better known under its brand name Lariam, is now no longer the first-choice recommended antimalarial for those going for two weeks or less to coastal resorts in Kenya (such as Mombasa, Diani Beach and Malindi) and Tanzania at any time of year, or for those going to The Gambia between January and May. Instead, people visiting these areas are being advised to take the main alternative to Lariam, the chloroquine/proguanil combination.

The fresh guidelines have been put together after 18 months of deliberation by 44 malaria experts under Professor David Bradley of the Malaria Reference Laboratory in London.

There has been much concern about the side effects of Lariam, which are reported to range from anxiety attacks to convulsions and acute psychosis. The percentage of people who suffer side effects is hotly disputed, but a study by the Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad (Masta) found that one in 140 users had "disabling" neuropsychiatric side effects.

However, Lariam has not been abandoned. The most dangerous form of malaria, falciparum malaria, has developed a resistance to chloroquine in parts of South-East Asia and South America and most of sub-Saharan Africa. So in these areas, Lariam is now the most effective antimalarial. For example, while in sub-Saharan Africa Lariam is 90 per cent effective, the chloroquine/proguanil combination is only 70 per cent so. And it is falciparum malaria that kills: of the 2,000 British travellers who contract malaria annually, an average of seven die of this type of malaria.

Given these facts, the group stopped a very long way short of ditching Lariam altogether. It

is still recommended for backpackers, for anyone going on safari (even for a single night), and simply wherever it is the most effective antimalarial: South-East Asia, South America and sub-Saharan Africa.

The exception is for holidaymakers to some African coastal resorts staying in well-screened accommodation and visiting for a short period. Since their circumstances are reckoned to put them at relatively low risk of catching malaria, they are advised to take chloroquine/proguanil for which fewer side effects are reported.

THE guidelines have also changed for Thailand. Previously, backpackers visiting rural areas were advised to take Lariam. Now the antimalarial is recommended for most of the country, except the mefloquine-resistant areas bordering Cambodia and Burma, where the antibiotic doxycycline is suggested.

The guidelines have placed greater emphasis on doxycycline as a useful alternative to mefloquine or chloroquine/proguanil, as it has been proved effective in parts of Asia. However, since it is not licensed as an antimalarial in the UK, doctors may be unwilling to take prescribe it, there is little data on its effectiveness in Africa. Some doxycycline users experience side effects such as a bad reaction to sun (possibly limiting its value to sunbathers), and it is not suitable for pregnant mothers and children under 12.

● The guidelines emphasise that it is more important to take an antimalarial regularly rather than agonise over which to take.

● Lariam should not be taken during pregnancy or by those with a history of psychiatric illness. Those who do take it should start 24 weeks before going abroad to allow full protection to see if any adverse reactions appear.

● You must continue an antimalarial course for four weeks after leaving a malarial area. If you develop a fever or flu-like illness within a year of travel, seek medical advice immediately.

KEEPING MOSQUITOES AT BAY



TAKING anti-malarials is only part of the regime required to avoid getting malaria. It is just as important to try to stop being bitten. There are a daunting number of repellents and devices such as nets, plug-in mosquito killers and coils on the market. For impartial advice, we turned to Professor Chris Curtis, the country's leading authority on protection against mosquitoes at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, and his colleague Nigel Hill. They have carried out numerous studies on how well repellents and insecticides work.

Insect repellents are applied to the skin or clothes to mask human odour, to which mosquitoes are attracted. They stop mosquitoes landing, rather than killing them. Most repellents contain diethyl toluamide (DEET). Tests show that it is the most effective substance for warding off mosquitoes. However, it can damage plastics; on some people it causes a rash or itching, and for a tiny few it can cause more serious complications. It should not be used on young children.

DEET levels in products vary from 10 to 100 per cent (the latter only to be applied to clothes). The general rule is the higher the concentration, the more effective the formula-

tion. Professor Curtis recommends products with at least 20 per cent DEET, but says effectiveness varies little with increased strength above that. "What is more important," he says, "is how much and how thoroughly you slap the product on."

WE ASKED him to comment on some repellents available from Boots. He said that, if thoroughly applied, there was probably little to choose between DEET-based products: Boots Repel Plus lotion and an Afta stick (both 20 per cent DEET), Jungle Formula roll-on (35 per cent DEET), and Jungle Formula Extra Strength liquid (50 per cent DEET). However, he was not impressed with instructions on the bottle of Mosquito Milk (20 per cent DEET): "Apply two or three stripes over exposed parts of the body. Total coverage is not necessary." "You should apply all over exposed parts," says Professor Curtis.

Some other products com-

tain plant-based extracts such as citronella oil — for example Boots Repel Plus for Children Lotion. But it has been clearly proven, that these are less effective than DEET or Mosi-guard Natural, so the latter is a better choice for young children. "No one should take a citronella-based product to the tropics," says Mr Hill.

Whatever product you buy, test it on a small area of skin to make sure you do not have an adverse reaction. The application you choose — aerosol, gel or roll-on — is a question of preference.

Ankle and wrist bands impregnated with DEET, such as those sold by Masta, are effective for up to 120 hours. Professor Curtis regards these as less effective than products applied directly to the skin, but acknowledges they focus on the body's most vulnerable parts, particularly the ankles. Tests carried out by near-naked researchers have proved that deadly falciparum-carrying mozzies are attracted to the feet because of their odour, while other types of mosquito go for the head, lured by the carbon dioxide we emit.

We should not believe claims for the long-lasting effects of repellents (up to ten hours for those we looked at, according to a recent London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Study for a Dutch consumer group. Professor Curtis says: "Claims of repellents working for more than four hours should be taken with a pinch of salt."



AS WELL as a repellent, you should also protect yourself with insecticides. Sleep under a mosquito net impregnated with permethrin. Many nets are sold ready-treated; otherwise buy a bottle of the chemical to coat the net. If you accidentally touch the net, the permethrin should kill them before they bite. Professor Curtis recommends a box-shaped net, since you are least likely to touch its sides; its drawback is that it is the most difficult to erect. Masta sells wide-mesh nets, which offer better ventilation than traditional, tightly meshed versions. It claims that these nets are as effective as the old-style ones. "Almost but

not quite," says Professor Curtis, who uses a traditional net. It is a good idea to spray the inside of the net (and the room) with insecticide before you go to bed. Tests have shown that plug-in devices with tablets, which emit an insecticide, are highly effective and last for as long as the ten hours the manufacturers claim. If there is an electrical fire they are a much better choice than the coils that you burn, which provide limited protection. Further ways to reduce the chances of being bitten: ● Cover exposed parts of your body after dark.

● Make sure mosquito screens are closed and not damaged. ● Keep the air-conditioning on — mosquitoes do not like turbulent air. ● Remain as sweat-free as possible — mosquitoes are attracted to chemical compounds in sweat. ● "Sleep with someone more attractive to mozzies than yourself," Mr Hill says. No one knows why, but mosquitoes are more attracted to some people than others. Do not bother with: ● Taking vitamin B1 supplements or Marmite. ● Wearing perfume. Mosquitoes' sensory perception is not so easily deluded. ● Electric buzzers that make a sound supposed to repel female mosquitoes.

AFTER almost a year spent crossing Africa in a Toyota Land-Cruiser, I was really looking forward to home comforts. No more sleeping outside besieged by mosquitoes, or wakened by curious Tuaregs. It was also the end of doctoring ourselves as we had travelled through the remotest parts of the continent often not seeing anyone for days. My boyfriend and I were sad, but pleased, to roll off the ferry at Dover one foggy December morning, putting our 20,000-mile journey behind us. Three weeks later I was lying racked with fever in

CASE HISTORY

South London. I thought I had flu, after all it was the first European winter I had experienced. But as the chills and vomiting grew worse, my GP confirmed the worst — malaria. Neither of us could believe it. I had started taking antimalarial pills before leaving my home town of Durban in South Africa, and my boyfriend's father, a GP, had given us a medicine pack of what he thought we might need, including a plentiful supply of antimal-

arial pills. We had bought coils and had taken some repellents, but when those ran out, we knew we would not be able to buy more.

I suppose we had become blasé. We had survived attacks by wild animals and come through a rabies scare, so at the beginning of our three-week crossing of the Sahara, we both stopped our course of pills.

Even though I recovered at the tropical diseases hospital in St Pancras, next time I'll keep taking the tablets.

ISOBEL SHEPHERD SMITH

PROTECTION

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WEBWORLD ON MALARIA

diseases/ mala/ malmain.htm The World Health Organisation's A-Z of malaria, from its history ("malaria" — bad air, by the way), to recent statistics.

THE BEST DEAL SITE: Join the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT) for a nominal

voluntary fee at <http://www.senter.net/iamat/> and tap into exhaustive info and an offer for LaMosquito, a portable anti-mosquito bed.

TRAVELLERS' TALES SITE: Type in malaria and/or Lariam at the search prompt at <http://www.loneplanet.com.au/thorn/thorn.htm> for

at least six chat forums of travellers' own tales.

THE MUGGING-UP SITE: Browse through 105 titles to do with malaria at <http://www.armchair.com/info/spira2.html> carries a paper on Lariam.

SUSANNAH JOWITT



Taking antimalarials is a good thing but it is just as important to keep covered up. How Tarzan survived, only Jane knows

FOR MORE INFORMATION

TELEPHONE advice: Masta Travellers Health Line 0891 224100; Malaria Reference Laboratory Information Line 0891 600350; Public Health Advisory Service's How to Avoid Getting Bitten Advice Line 0891 600270 (all premium rates). For your nearest British Airways Travel Clinic call 01276 685040. It is sensible to consult your GP before travelling to a malarial area.

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WHERE DO I START? The American Center for Disease Control website should be the first port of call for general info, full area risk breakdowns, tips on insect repellent, the distinctions between all the different drugs for different areas, and specialist info for pregnant women. Found at <http://www.cdc.gov/cdc.html> Equally informative but less travel-orientated is <http://www.who.ch/programmes/cid/>

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SKI WEEKEND: AMERICA

Rumble in the Rocky Mountains

TONY STONE

IT WAS a classic Colorado showdown. I felt like John Wayne in his declining years. The young pistolero beamed his baby blues unflinchingly at me across the corral. Well, the car park, actually. I'd seen him eyeing me all morning. I knew who he was because I had seen him on TV and his photo was plastered all over the Denver newspapers.



DOUG SAGER

He had no idea who I was, but I'd triggered his competitive, young-gun instincts. As a

guest of the Arapahoe Basin ski patrol, I'd spent the morning carving up deep, untracked powder bowls — off limits, under penalty of sheriff's arrest, to paying customers like him.

A-Basin, in the Rocky Mountains 40 miles west of Denver, has some of the steepest and most avalanche-prone terrain — and the sweetest powder skiing — in America. That morning, while hiding behind huge pines in thigh-deep snow, we'd thrown small explosive charges to dislodge a threatening slab which thundered from the very top of the mountain all the way down to the parking lot.

That focused his attention. So when I skied down to the bus stop to exchange high-five farewells with the elite veterans of A-Basin's bomb patrol, he was waiting.

Long blond hair tied back with an American-Indian bandanna, dolled up in the latest North Face Sheep Tech skiwear, and carrying two pairs of race-tuned 206cm skis, he glancingly assessed my tree-scarred Berghaus parka and short rental skis. "Wanna make some turns?" he challenged.

But as he told me his story on the bus down the valley to nearby Keystone, the competitive urge quickly thawed into friendliness.

His name is Jason Anthony. He is American, 22, and for the past four winters he has worked nights as a waiter at Bandito's bar in Keystone. For Christmas, his mother bought him an avalanche transceiver. And three days ago, he needed it.

Jason was the fourth skier down a serious couloir called Little Professor that is well-known to those who ski the Colorado backcountry. Jason was engulfed in a mammoth powder avalanche.

Showing amazing coolness, he kicked off his skis and pulled his bandanna down over his mouth, to stop snow going in and suffocating him.

A tourist captured the whole thing on video. "I learnt a lot of respect for the mountain that day," Jason told me.

Americans are nothing if not friendly, and the skiing there is the most welcoming in the world. They have the best safety records, the best piste grooming and the most elaborate children's facilities, typically featuring enclosed areas from which adults are banned, with fun park cartoon characters, simulated mine shafts to ski through and educational displays of local flora and fauna.

Any complaints? Certainly, the ski passes are unduly expensive. Comparing the top 15 resorts in France and the United States, a six-day high season lift ticket in America averages at \$160, while the same ticket costs only \$98 in France. Of course, the American pass allows you to choose any six out of eight days on which to ski and is the ticket to far more civilised and well-organised chairlift loading areas than in France.

In the America-versus-Alps debate, one negative feature that is always mentioned is its dearth of high-altitude haute cuisine.

The implication is that Americans are barbarians, unable to appreciate a three-hour lunch in a draughty log chalet at mountain-high prices.

Although it is true that a hamburger or bowl of chili from a self-service cafeteria is sufficient fuel for most Americans eager to get back out on the slopes, the best American mountain restaurants beat anything in the Alps for service and comfort. And I have yet to find Chinese food on the menu anywhere in the

Alps, as it is on the mountain at Vail. Keystone's Alpenglouh Stube is the best, and highest (11,444ft) haute cuisine in North America. Vintage ports and burgundies topping £200 a bottle complement delicacies such as tenderloin of wild boar. On the mountain at Snowmass, the meal I had at Gwyn's was the equal of anything I have tasted at La Marmite in St Moritz, considered the best mountain eatery in the Alps.

American and Alpine skiers have different priorities. The average American has no more than two weeks' annual holiday, compared with four to six weeks in Europe.

The American skier invariably wants it easy: instantly understandable, no-brainer, signposting, someone cheerful to brush the snow off the high-speed chairlift seat, and a ski school where psychological counselling comes free with tips on piste technique.

Britons are no longer the worst skiers in the Alps (Italians are), and a Briton who rates himself only an intermediate in Val d'Isère or Verbier will find himself skiing the expert black diamond runs with aplomb in America.

One reason is that American skiing is more populist than the image with which it is often saddled in Britain. Some 4 per cent of all Americans take skiing holidays, whereas fewer than 1 per cent of Britons do. Anyone who has been in an American resort during annual skiing weeks dedicated to firemen, gays, blacks or airline pilots will admit that American skiing is about as democratic as it gets.

Keeping the customer happy is good business. And ski resorts have suddenly become investment opportunities in America.

Within the past year, Vail Resorts has acquired both Keystone and Breckenridge. Just last month the American Skiing Company, owners of Killington and Sugarbush in Vermont, paid about \$180 million for Steamboat in Colorado and Heavenly in California.

When Vail Resorts went public last March, an initial stock offering netted \$162.5 million. The former Vail chairman, George Gillett, despite financial reversals which saw him

deposed at Vail, has started another skiing consortium that has acquired ten American resorts.

No American resort, however, is as extensive as the huge interconnected ski circuits of the Alps, typified by France's Trois Vallées, with 600km in pistes. Britons used to laissez-faire attitudes in the Alps, where warning signs and ropes are routinely ignored without legal penalty, complain that there is "no off-piste in America".

They bridle at having ski passes confiscated for skiing too fast, and at stiff fines for skiing under ropes marking closed pistes. In fact, there is plenty of challenging skiing in America, particularly in Alaska, Utah, Jackson Hole and the Tahoe region. The proof is in the pre-eminence of American skiers like Scott

Schmidt, Glen Plake and Doug Coombs starring in extreme videos and winning the World Extreme Championships in Valdez, Alaska.

With its bigger snowfalls (up to 1,000 inches annually in Alyeska, less than 40 miles from Anchorage), and considerably more avalanche-prone terrain (particularly in Utah), it is only by strictly controlling skiers' access to "backcountry" areas outside resort boundaries and by skiers' adherence to safety regulations within resorts that America can assure accident and avalanche fatality statistics that are a fraction of those in the Alps.

If it is not fair to characterise American skiing as universally anodyne, it is not amiss to criticise the woeful insistence on filling glasses with ice-cubes, no matter how freezing the temperature. Moreover, for a nation that advertises its cowboy culture, mandatory drug testing for all employees and bans on male staff sporting beards and ponytails appear decidedly puritanical from a European perspective.



On the steep slopes of the Rockies, where British skiers accustomed to intermediate status in the Alps can handle the black runs with ease

Twisting off the beaten track

Anita Peltonen tests out the rugged cross-country terrain found in New Hampshire's National Forest

I learnt to ski cross-country long before I skied downhill and I'm still partial to twisting trails and lots of trees, and pistes that haven't been groomed clean of the signs of wilderness that are half the point of winter sports.

A friend suggested that I check out Cannon and Loon ski mountains, in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. As I soon discovered, they provide my kind of scenery — in spades.

First I skied Cannon, where the views from the enclosed Tram gondola over Echo Lake, Franconia Notch, the bald Mt Lafayette, and the northern reaches of the White Mountains National Forest, are the wildest and most varied I've seen from any northeastern American slope.

Only blue (intermediate) and black (expert) trails are available at the top of Cannon, at 4,186ft. Cannon Trail be-

came my favorite. Upper Cannon (blue) is narrow and winding, with a good spin off the fall line. It is closely hugged by trees, giving an illusion of shelter despite the wind biting at my face.

Middle Cannon (blue), also narrow, develops small, well-formed moguls by afternoon. When the powder is light they're good fun. Otherwise, there's the smoother Middle Cannon bypass, which has deeply banked elbow curves. Lower Cannon (green, for novices) is a wide free-for-all with lots of tree islands. From here, there are 13 ways to finish your run.

Advanced skiers might choose Taft Slalom (black). "It's got a keen pitch, with a little elfin land of trees falling

away next to you and views to forever," enthused a Cannon veteran I met at the top, who also told me that this was the original trail opened in 1931 as North America's first alpine ski run.

On the west slope, Upper Ravine (blue) was another choice run. The wind acted up, but the incline and curves give this trail grace, and you get something of that skiing-at-the-top-of-the-world feeling. The dwarf pines are bent over with snow, and the taller trees are thickly rimed with crystals. On a clear day you can see Canada.

The best novice run is Grenfin. It's wide and straight, but includes some decent pitch and roll. Cannon Mountain is not kind to timid

novices — but keen ones will love it.

The mountain does have its drawbacks: the trails spilling into Echo basin, the sole route back to the Tram, are steep and slick up, since they fall into shadow early in the day, and the slog across the flat Tram Outback is difficult if you came from Gary's or Rocket (blues).

But Cannon is a natural beauty: endless trees and crags punctuate the 22-mile network of trails that ends at Echo Lake, an onyx tarn. Thanks to its exposed northerly face, Cannon has lashings of natural snow from November until April, so there is hardly any call for snow-making. Cannon is not

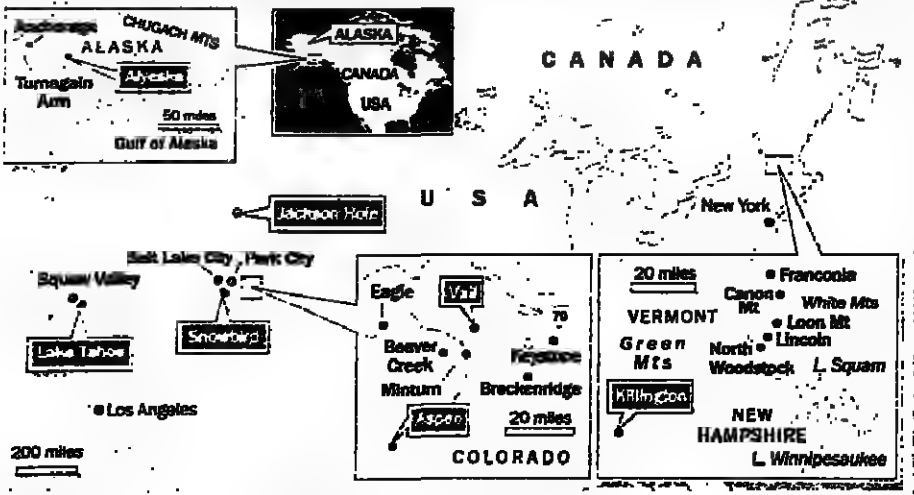
ungroomed, it is just not overgroomed. Natural snow skiers and boarders love it.

Where Cannon is no-nonsense, Loon, ten miles away, is full service, an entire ski village. Ski "ambassadors" direct skiers from the parking lot or lift unloading points to the type of trail they want. I rode the popular gondola to the 3,050-foot summit.

My favourite route from there was Bear Claw Extension (blue). It spoils behind the mountain and back before bringing you into handsome high tundra on two bouncy fall-liners, Flying Fox and Picked Rock (blues). These had moderate drop-offs, brief plateaus, and a series of islands.

Like Cannon, Loon is also sheltered by nearby cliffs. Of the black routes, Upper Walking Boss and Flume begin highest up and have the steepest drop-offs. But more

Continued on page 31



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THIS week, for the first time, fly-drive options are being offered on ski charters to Denver and Canadian resorts served by Calgary and Vancouver.

Starting at £299 for round-trip flights to Denver, and including car hire for a week with unlimited mileage, these options are, for the moment available, only from Snow Line (01858 434363) and Skiers Travel Bureau (0113-266 6876).

These prices do not include accommodation, but they do offer skiers the chance to take

advantage of multi-resort skiing, particularly in Colorado, where Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone are all featured this year for the first time on a single skipass.

Getting around the Colorado resorts — and the Banff area ski centres and Jasper — on public transport has never been convenient. Summit County's Copper Mountain, for example, although

NOW YOU CAN FLY, DRIVE AND SKI

very close to Breckenridge, has no public transport link to the Vail resorts.

With a car, skiers have the option of privately arranged, inexpensive accommodation in the Summit County towns of Dillon or Silverthorne, although packages with resort-based accommodation are also available from Snow Line and Skiers Travel Bureau.

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SKI WEEKEND: AMERICA

Best of the west: high and mighty

Doug Sager hits the transatlantic trail to compare resorts in the USA, where skiing is often only part of an impressive package

VAIL'S RESORTS

I CAN think of no better introduction to American skiing than Vail in Colorado, especially now that Breckenridge — historically the single most popular American resort with Britons — has been added to the Vail ski pass. Keystone, an ideal family centre a few miles from the tiny, cult resort of Arapahoe Basin, is Breckenridge's near neighbour, connected by free shuttle bus.

Along with Breckenridge, Vail satellite Beaver Creek and Keystone are now included on the ski pass. Also for the first time, buses, costing \$5 for the 45-minute trip, will run from Vail to the Summit County resorts of Breckenridge and Keystone.

Vail is the most popular resort among Americans. And if it has any failing, it is in trying to be all things to all skiers and snowboarders. The Eagle's Nest complex of restaurants, night skiing, snowboarding and ice skating, which opened last year, certainly has something for everyone.

Vail's Back Bowls tempt even intermediate skiers off piste, with graduated steps from easy to seriously challenging.

Car-free Vail tries for a European atmosphere with mock Tyrolean trappings, but succeeds better with Western themes: hot-dog stands done up as stagecoaches and horse-drawn sleighs driven by cowboys.

The Lodge at Vail is one of the best resort hotels in America, and it is the only one in Vail with skiing to and from the door.

ASPEN

FOR true sophistication, skiing terrain for all abilities and affordability, there is no alternative to Aspen in Colorado. Never mind the celebrities, and forget the furs. Aspen is a small city, where I found a steak dinner for less than \$10, two-for-one happy-hour cocktails and good shopping at big stores like Gap and Eddie Bauer.

Aspen has its own theatre company, research institutes, classical music radio stations and a cafe/bookstore that stays open until midnight. The town is small and flat enough to make walking a pleasure and the ski slopes come right into town.

Manicured and gentle, Buttermilk is the perfect beginners' mountain. Snowmass is a self-contained resort, a huge complex of mostly intermediate runs. And this winter a new lift into the expert-only Cirque area gives Snowmass the title of America's highest lift-served skiing (12,510ft) and longest vertical drop (4,406ft).

Aspen Highlands, just outside town, is a rugged mountain with steep tree runs and the favoured haunt of the Aspen hardcore. Aspen Mountain itself is one of America's best, although it can get overcrowded. Hidden runs remain, however. Try to hook up with the Chicks on Sticks, who ski every Friday. They'll take you deep into the woods where they have made a shrine to Jerry



High lift bubble lift at Vail

Garcia. Red roses, beads and rolling papers are nailed to trees, along with a poem by Ken Kesey. It's one of the few places in Colorado — indoors or out — where smoking is not prohibited.

UTAH

UTAH'S legendary powder snow is said to be the result of snowclouds drying out while passing over the desert. Utah's resorts get more snow every winter than most resorts in the Alps get in their best season out of 20. Snowbird and Alta are the resorts best known to British skiers. Park City, venue for many events in the 2002 Winter Olympics, is far more accessible to the average intermediate skier.

But Utah also harbours America's most expensive ski pass (\$342 for six days) and over-the-top resort Deer Valley, where the bath taps are gold-plated.

The legendary Olympic skier Stein Eriksen, 70 this winter, is out on the slopes every day to show visiting skiers how it's done.

JACKSON HOLE

JACKSON Hole in Wyoming has skiing that will fill European experts with awe and a wild west party scene to relax the stiffest resolve. With the jagged peaks of the Grand Tetons as a backdrop and horses and cattle roaming the range, Jackson Hole is cowboy country in spades. In summer it teems with visitors to the national parks, but in winter its motels have reasonable rates. Staying in the town of Jackson, only 12 miles from the ski area, is well worth it.

The Million Dollar Cowboy Bar, with its tobacco-chewing cowboys hunkered over the pool tables, and cowgirls in the back room kicking off line dancing, is no tourist trap. There are the inevitable junk T-shirt shops, but there is no better place to shop for lizard-skin boots, ankle-length canvas "duster" coats cut to spread over a horse's rump, or pearl-handled kys.

Jackson Hole is cold in winter and the snow is furious. Waits of

an hour for the tram were not uncommon in the past, but this year a new cable car — Americans call them trams — has been added. As you ride up, right over the top of the famous Corbet's Couloir, a "safety person" in the old tram announces which runs are open, and warns, with justification: "You ain't never skied a mountain like this one before."

TAHOE

FAIRWEATHER skiers can't find a better resort than Squaw Valley, where the California sun biases every day of the winter, except the five or six when it snows. But when it snows in the Lake Tahoe region, measurements are taken by the foot, in double figures. Last time the El Niño weather phenomenon hit America, the Tahoe resorts were literally buried. It is shocking at Squaw to ski over a ridge with huge piles of snow and see on the other side an endless expanse of brown desert.

Lake Tahoe is beautiful, and it is possible to take an old paddle-steamer across the lake each morning to ski Squaw. Heavenly Valley straddles the California-Nevada border. On the Nevada side are quick-wedding chapels, drive-through divorce bureaus and towering gambling casinos. The latter have inexpensive accommodation, lavish entertainment and are convenient for Heavenly's skiing — definitely not of the high-risk variety.

ALASKA

LOVERS of the extreme, romantics and escapists will adore Alaska. The Chugach mountains fall straight to the sea in steep folds laden with deep snow. There is drama in the night sky when the Northern Lights electrify the inky black, and in the sea, when huge bore tides rip down the ice and mud flats of Turnagain Arm.

In Alyeska I skied snow as deep and couloirs as steep as I have ever dared, all legally open under the supervision of the resort ski patrol. Many days are foggy, and the snow can be heavy — the resort is the lowest in America at 250ft. But skiing in Alaska was like nothing I had ever experienced in America or in the Alps. I can't wait to go back.

NEW ENGLAND

AMERICA'S Atlantic coast has some good skiing, but does not live up to the aggressive marketing that resorts and tour operators direct at British skiers. Eastern skiing is a quicker to get to and a bit cheaper, but that's about it.

No other place in the world has such extensive snowmaking systems. Such advanced snow engineering allows skiing on bases as little as two inches thick of compacted artificial snow. Killington, in Vermont, is generally America's first resort to open and the last to close. East Coast skiers are acknowledged to be America's toughest and most skillful, taking blue ice in their stride and shivering merrily along in bitter conditions that, in the



Snowfalls measured in feet rather than inches make Lake Tahoe a dream destination for skiers and snowboarders



Breckenridge, always popular with British visitors, is now included on the Vail ski pass

OPERATORS TO AMERICA

■ THE big news this winter is that all six mainstream operators offer both Wednesday and Saturday charter flights direct to Denver. No nonstop scheduled flights to Denver are available, and stopovers at American "hubs" to change planes can cause delays of several hours.

When comparing prices, it is important to note that some firms quote on the basis of four adults sharing a room with two beds, while others quote on the basis of two adults per room.

■ Crystal (0181-399 5144) has the biggest mainstream choice, featuring 23 resorts, and is the first and only firm to go to Alaska. Inghams (0181-780 4444) has a good selection of 14 resorts, five with chalets. Neilson (0990 994444) has three Colorado resorts, having dropped Crested Butte, and five new offerings on the East Coast.

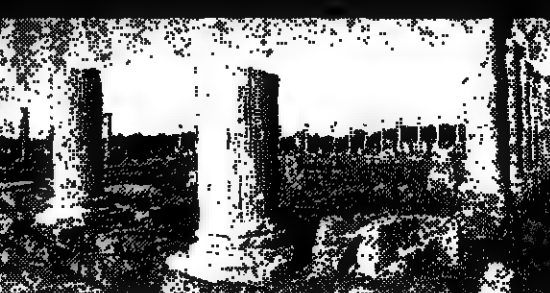
■ Thomson (0990 329329), which cut its American programme altogether some years ago, is back with a good choice of six Colorado resorts. Airtours (01706 232324) also concentrates on Colorado, with four resorts. First Choice (0990 557755) goes to three Colorado resorts.

■ Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) was the first firm to cross the Atlantic, and in 17 years has acquired 23 resorts, including Alta. Taos and Big Sky — seldom featured by less experienced operators. Ski Independence (0990 550555) has price

conscious packages to 21 resorts. The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) takes its unequalled service to Vail, at the magnificent Buffer Creek chalet. Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) was a pioneer in Jackson Hole and now extends its homes on the

range to Vail, Aspen and Snowbird. Virgin (01293 617181) ski holidays to California have been extended to Utah and New England. Momentum Travel (0171-371 9111) offers tailor-made holidays to America's most luxurious hotels.

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Continued from page 30
Interesting black are Angel Street and Upper Runarunner. Angel Street is a treat for skiers seeking "whales" — giant piles of ungrounded, artificial snow with 8ft drop-offs, spilling you from one to the next.

Loon's drawbacks include the gondola waits, and a tendency towards straightline cruisers on the lower slope. You should avoid the eastern bowl toward day's end; if the North Peak or East Basin chairs have stopped, you have to meander along Brookway, then push hard across a plateau to West Basin parking.

Trail conditions varied little between the two mountains; there was just less bulletproof ice on the chairlifts at Loon. Cannon has the state's longest vertical drop, at 2,446ft versus Loon's 2,100. Cannon's summit, however, is more than 1,000ft higher. Each mountain is cloaked with dense stands of spindly, naked maples at the lower elevations, a thick coat of evergreens at the middle altitudes, and up high, pined granite ledges casting sharp profiles against slate skies.

The skiing is interesting and varied and — more importantly, so, too, is the wilderness. After that, and a trip on the free steam train shuttling skiers between the two base lodges, I was ready for a long soak in one of the resort's hot tubs. I stayed at the gracious, wood-shingled 1912 Wilderness Inn B&B three miles from Loon in north Woodstock, with its modest war memorial

and old Yankee cottages. The proprietors, Rosanna, a language teacher, and Mike Yarnell, a ski instructor, offer comfort, an excellent selection of LPs, generous breakfasts and free tea or hot cider at the end of the day — all at a fraction of the cost of the more expensive slopeside accommodation.
● Cannon Mountain and Loon Mountain are in New Hampshire, about 140 miles north of Boston, Mass, on Interstate Highway 93. For information consult: New Hampshire Tourism (001-800 386 4664); Ski 93 (001-603 745 8101), the regional ski promotion agency; Loon Mountain resort information (001-603 745 8111); Cannon Mountain resort information (001-603 823 5563). The Wilderness Inn, Rte 3, North Woodstock, NH 03262 (001-603 745 3890); rooms from £30-£56 (\$30-£90). From the UK, Loon is featured in the Crystal Ski Schools programme (0181-241 5151).

beaten track



Say goodbye to the sun

February's solar
eclipse should
be spectacular,
says Lucy
Faulconbridge

Unseekers should avoid the Caribbean in February, scientists say it will be the best place to observe a solar eclipse. Ironically, the devastated island of Montserrat, off-limits to tourists after a volcanic eruption, is pinpointed as the ideal viewing island. However, neighbouring Antigua and Guadeloupe are suggested as next best to observe the total eclipse on February 26, which will be visible for three minutes at about 2.30pm, local time. Scientists are hoping that the volcanic dust clouds from Montserrat will result in spectacular viewing.

According to Dr. Peter Cattermole, a geologist and astronomer who is leading a group to Guadeloupe, back-ground light as the sun moves behind the moon could reflect off dust particles, forming a clear outline of the volcanic clouds highlighted in the darkness. "Seeing volcanic dust behind a total eclipse is extremely rare," he says. "Similar sights happened in 1883 in the aftermath of Mt Krakatoa's eruption."

He will watch the eclipse from the cliffs at Pointe de la Grande Vigie, on the northern tip of Guadeloupe and overlooking the sea to Montserrat 50 miles away. Dr. Cattermole, a director of Journeys of Special Scientific Interest, is working with Bridgewater Travel (0161-707 8279) to arrange the seven-night trip from February 23 to March 3. The price of £1,279 includes flights, transfers, room-only accommodation and a celebratory lunch.

Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions (0171-381 8638) has a 17-day cruise for £3,325 to the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador, which will also provide a viewing platform. The eclipse may also be visible from as far afield as Hawaii and Morocco.



Volcanic dust clouds from Montserrat may provide a splendid backdrop to the eclipse

Britain offers legal protection from the touts, but Spain has not caught up, says Cath Urquhart

Walking the timeshare minefield

TOURISTS in Tenerife earlier this month probably did not realise the debt they owed the Association of British Travel Agents, which was holding its annual convention in Playa de las Americas, in the south of the island.

For years, it has been impossible to walk along the promenades of Playa and neighbouring Los Cristianos without being pestered by timeshare touts. When I was in Tenerife a year ago, the pressure was relentless. Every few steps, I had a scratchcard or leaflet thrust into my hand.

So during the convention, I expected the same treatment. Yet on a two-hour stroll along Veronicas, the bustling heart of Playa, not one tout did I see. Instead, there were so many police that I half-expected a presidential motorcade to appear at any moment.

I finally found a tout just round the corner from the convention centre. Bronzed, bejewelled and with a practised patter, he was soon chatting about the complex he was promoting. I wanted to visit to see if the patter matched the reality, so when he asked if I was with Abta, I denied all knowledge of the

convention, knowing he would scarp if I revealed who I was. My cover was blown when two fellow delegates walked past, greeted me warmly and asked if I was going to the afternoon session. My tout vanished like a rat up a drainpipe. But Tina Sonck, director of the Tenerife tourist development bureau, thinks the 2,200 Abta delegates cannot take all the credit for keeping the touts off the streets.

"Timeshare companies have said they will gradually take their people off the streets because of the bad press they were getting. The Canarian regional government is looking at ways of putting the touts in specific areas but it is not contemplating their removal. We and the Tenerife government think this does not go far enough — we want them off the streets."

Touts or no touts, timeshare sales methods are still a cause for grief in several European countries, especially Spain,



In Los Cristianos last year, the pressure was relentless

where by far the largest number of Britons buy their properties. Spain has still not implemented the European Union directive designed to give timeshare purchasers greater protection. It became law last April in Britain and a handful of other EU countries.

The directive's most important provision is that it gives timeshare customers a ten-day

"cooling off" period during which they can change their minds and get all their money back. In Britain the law already exceeds this, with purchasers given a 14-day cooling off period.

In his speech to the Abta delegates, Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, said he had met his Spanish counterpart last month to

discuss the problem. "He assures me that the Spanish Government is likely to pass the necessary laws within six months," he said. "That's good news for timeshare operators and customers and will enable people to buy timeshares with confidence."

EVEN when it is implemented, however, the EU directive will not stop touts hassling holidaymakers. Diana Hanks, consumer services manager for the Timeshare Council, a trade body based in London, says customers are further confused because the Department of Trade and Industry has put out a guide to buying timeshares that assumes the EU directive is in force across Europe.

"The DTI leaflet says customers buying within the EU will have ten days to cool off, and it is proving very hard to explain to customers why this is not so in all countries," she said.

How to avoid pitfalls Timeshare is growing in pop-

ularity and respectability. Airtravels is the first major tour operator to go into the timeshare business, and is selling timeshares at complexes in Orlando, Florida, and the Bahia Felix complex on Gran Canaria, due to open next year. Iketon Co-op Travel started selling holidays last month to a timeshare complex in Tenerife. There are still rogue operators in the business, however, and there are still countries where consumer protection is inadequate, so if you are considering buying a timeshare, remember these points:

● If you buy in a country such as Spain that has not implemented the EU directive, you may have trouble getting your money back if you change your mind.

● You can swap your timeshare week so you are not tied to the same resort, but if you buy an off-peak week you may find it harder to make a good swap.

● Check the management charges for maintenance of the property — if repairs are needed, costs can be high.

● The Timeshare Council, 23 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB (0171-821 8845).

EU calls a halt to duty-free sales

But you can still buy, depending on where you're going, says Stephen Brennan

THE European Commission has confirmed that from July 1, 1999, duty-free sales within the European Union will be abolished.

Mario Monti, the internal market commissioner, informed the European Parliament of the decision in response to the campaign against the abolition of duty free by interested parties such as trades unions, airlines, airports and the ferry companies.

But duty-free will still be available for EU citizens bound for destinations outside Europe, which account for half of all travellers from London airports. People travelling to duty-free areas such as the Channel Islands and the Canary Islands will also still qualify for the perk, so these destinations may well become more popular.

The concept of duty-free dates to the days when on long voyages a ship's water often became unfit for

duced a ration of alcohol as a substitute. Civilian travellers subsequently were allowed to buy drinks free of duty once the ship was in international waters.

Cross-Channel ferry operators are unhappy at the abolition, as they make up to 50 per cent of their revenue from duty and tax-free sales. But Eurostar and Le Shuttle argue that money made on this trade distorts competition on cross-Channel routes. A Eurostar spokesman said: "We have never been allowed to sell duty free, and we feel all carriers should be treated the same, so we do not think that the present arrangements are fair. We hope that the abolition of duty free will tilt the balance in Eurostar's favour."

And perhaps, once ferry firms no longer have a vested interest in keeping their customers at sea buying goods in ageing and slow ferries, they will invest more in a new

Joanna Hunter tracks down the best travel bargains, from gambling in Monte Carlo to a safari in Botswana



□ PAGODAS, chopsticks, kitsch Japan has it all. The Japan Experience (01703 730830) has reduced its offer of seven nights (accommodation only) of the New Miyako Hotel, Kyoto, and return flights from Heathrow to Osaka, from 1996 to £886 per person. Departing every day this week, transfers and Japanese taxes are not included.

□ Try your luck in Monte Carlo. Arrive in style with British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) which is offering helicopter transfers between Nice and Monaco, one night's B&B at the Hotel Mirabeau, return flights and all UK taxes from £245 per person, departing from Heathrow every day this week.

□ Spend the day in Prague next Sunday, November 23. First Choice (0161-742 2228) offers a return flight leaving from Gatwick at 6.45am and returning at 9pm, breakfast and supper, transfers, half-day guided tour and free pocket guide are all included for £129 per person.

□ On Safari (0171-823 5900) is offering six nights on the Mokoro Trail in Botswana, leaving next Friday, November 21. You stay at three lodges, including the Chobe Chitwero Camp, from where you can see some of the best big game in Africa. The price of £2,448 per person includes full board, activities, all transfers, return flights from Heathrow via Johannesburg, airport taxes and all the park fees.

□ Back in Tobago with Caribbeans (0171-381 3517). Flying on Wednesday from Heathrow to Trinidad, seven nights accommodation at the Kariwak Village and transfers to Tobago is £605 per person.

□ Visit Arras, birthplace of the revolutionary Robespierre and now hailed as the best town for shopping in Normandy. Intravel Shortbreaks

FLYING VISITS			
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Manchester to Berlin	£126 Air UK/NLM	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)	
London to London	£59 (incl. £65 ex-BM)	£576 BA	
London to London	from £58 (incl. £65 ex-BM)	£200 Sabena (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick/City)	
London to London	from £58 (incl. £65 ex-BM)	£220 BA (ex-Gatwick)	
London to London	£162 Air UK/NLM	£596 BA	
London to London	£126 Air UK/NLM	£634 BA	
London to London	£126 Air UK/NLM	£690 BA	
London to London	from £176 (incl. £208 ex-BM)	£244 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	
London to London	£159 (incl. £168 ex-BM)	£226 BA (ex-Heathrow)	

(01653 628662) is offering one night's B&B at the Ostel del Tros Luppas and return ferry from Dover to Calais for a car and two people for £80, leaving next Saturday, November 22.

□ Suffering from insomnia? Major Travel (0171-393 1089) is flying to New York on Friday, November 21. Three nights accommodation only at the centrally located Metro Hotel, transfers, taxes and return flights with British Airways from Heathrow or Gatwick is £429 per person; flight only is £221, including taxes.

□ Sunvil UK (0181-232 9788) is offering two nights half board at the Royal Hotel on the Isle of Wight for £129 per person. Return ferry for one car and two passengers, free entry to Carisbrook Castle and a bottle of wine is included.

□ Fly to Thailand with Asian Explorer (01481 823417), which

has daily departures for a two-week, two-centre holiday. You spend three nights in Bangkok and 11 in Pattaya; the price of £664 includes B&B, flights, transfers and taxes. Departures from Heathrow or Gatwick. The holiday must be completed before December 6.

□ Austravel (0171-734 7755) has flights to Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday November 20 from Gatwick and on Sunday, November 23 from Manchester, with Britannia Airways for £399 return. Austravel also has a seven-night self-drive tour of New Zealand's North Island for £307 per person, including car hire and accommodation, but not meals or flights.

□ Exodus (0181-675 5550) has a 15-day Moroccan Sahara tour, leaving Heathrow next Saturday, for £585 per person including accommodation and some meals.

Britons to pay £35 for Kenya visa

Holiday firms say tourism will suffer, Cath Urquhart reports

British visitors to Kenya will have to pay a £35 visa fee from today, following a sudden decision by the Kenyan Government to introduce the charge.

The move has been branded an "own goal" by holiday companies that take tourists to Kenya. The country is already suffering a drop in visitor numbers following political unrest in Mombasa in August.

Nick Woods of British Airways Holidays, which sends about 100 Britons to Kenya each week, said: "It is absolutely outrageous. They have given us no time to tell our customers, so there are going to be very difficult scenes at Nairobi and Mombasa airports. We are trying to tell our customers before they travel and they are very unhappy about it."

"We believe this to be a negative move — it will deter people from going there. Also, we believe it will cause unemployment and bankruptcy in their hotel industry."

A spokesman for Somak Holidays, a leading operator to Kenya, said: "For a country that relies so heavily on tourism, this can only do harm. We are also surprised by the level of the charge, which is higher than many other destinations. It will undoubtedly affect bookings."

Alan Flook, secretary-general of the Federation of Tour Operators, which represents 18 of the biggest holiday companies, said: "We have protested to the Kenyan Ministry of Tourism. We are finding it hard enough to sell Kenya as it is. This will put the lid on it."

As well as the visa fee, visitors to Kenya must each pay £20 air passenger duty when leaving Britain, and a £14 departure tax when leaving Kenya. The visa fee was announced only on Tuesday and takes effect from today. A single entry tourist visa, valid for three months, costs £35 per

ist visa valid for one year costs £70, and a two-year multiple entry visa costs £120. Children travelling on their own passport will also have to pay.

Christopher Chika, First Secretary at the Kenya High Commission in London, defended the introduction of the fee. He said: "It is less than what we are charged by the British High Commission in Nairobi to visit Britain as tourists." He said the move was not as sudden as it might appear. "The British have been charging us for a year, so it was more or less expected. If they have been planning to go to Kenya, a £35 charge will not put them off."

However, political unrest might deter travellers. Elections have been scheduled for December 29 and violence cannot be ruled out.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "Since mid-August there have been a number of violent incidents in which local people have been killed and properties burned. Most have occurred just south of Mombasa, near the Shelly and Diani Beach resorts."

These resorts are popular with British tourists. The spokesman added that violence had not been directed at tourists and holiday companies were co-operating with local authorities to safeguard visitors.

The £35 fee puts Kenya near the top of the league for expensive tourist visas. Last year Jordan tried to raise its fee from £27 to £72 but quickly brought it back down after protests from holidaymakers. Vietnam and Bangladesh charge £40, but Nigeria is a clear winner at £138.

Anyone travelling to Kenya can obtain the visa on arrival at Nairobi or Mombasa airports, said Mr Chika. Tourists who wish to apply in advance can obtain an application form from the Kenya High Commission, 45 Portland Place, London W1B 1AA.



Bring it up in Florida

Activity

Nursing care needed

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

FLORIDA CRUISES

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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Living it up in Florida

INTERHOME (0181-891 1294), the largest independent accommodation agency in Europe, has moved into Florida with a collection of self-catering apartments and villas with pools to rent. Prices start at £205-£616 for a six-person apartment for a week in St Petersburg on the Gulf of Mexico, rising to £1,241-£1,374 for a five-star villa with pool, sleeping ten, in Kissimmee, south of Orlando. All these prices are per property.

In Stockholm, next year's European Culture Capital, both the B&B Agency Sweden and the B&B Service Stockholm can offer rooms in private houses from £15-£36 per person per night. Details from the Swedish Travel and Tourism Council (0171-724 5868).

Children under 12 can stay free in hotels in London, if they share a room with their parents. The Hotel Directory (0181-770 0123) offers several centrally located hotels, with prices between £33-£59 per person per night.

THE Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (0171-805 5100) is to retrace most of its inaugural 1883 route from Paris to Istanbul next summer. The five-day rail trip departing on August 28 (returning September 2) will cross Austria, Hungary, Transylvania and Romania. The one-way trip, which includes three nights on the train with full board, a night in Budapest and a Bucharest sightseeing tour, costs £2,785. For £3,100, a seven-night holiday includes Eurostar to

Activity days

THOMSON Holidays (0990 502 399) is spicing up the cut-price image of the Dominican Republic, which this winter will overtake Florida as Thomson's bestselling long-haul destination.

To cater for younger travellers, the company is introducing mountain bike tours, river rafting and a four-day Get Wet Go Wild adventure including riding, rafting and biking. A 14-day all-inclusive holiday, offering all these activities, costs from £1,045-£1,549.

Nursing care needed

ORPHAN orang-utans are among the casualties of the fires that have swept the forests of Indonesia. The young, who are often in a state of shock and are desperate for food, are being cared for at the Orang-utan Foundation in the Tanjung Puting National Park.

If you want to help the orphans and track wild rehabilitated orang-utans, you can join one of the 14-day projects organised by discovery initiatives (0171-229 9881) between June and November 1998. The cost is £2,395 including flights, meals and accommodation in lodges and camp sites.

Cheaper projects include a seven-day bush and wildlife trip in South Africa's KwaZulu/Natal in

Vietnam view

CHECK your travel insurance before booking for a new tour of Vietnam organised by the imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612). It is a Motorbike Adventure — on the 125cc plus-plans used by the locals — and costs £990 for two weeks. Starting and finishing in Hanoi, the trip explores the border terrain in the north of the country, taking in the mountain ranges, ethnic hill tribe towns and lakesides, using roads rarely travelled by Westerners. The three departures in 1998 are on April 19, August 2 and September 20.

The company has also arranged six exploratory adventures in China for those who can survive without all the comforts of Western hotels. Some tours visit lesser-known regions where standards can be basic, and itineraries have to be flexible.

Customers on a 22-day Hill Tribes of China Tour, travelling by bus, bicycle and on foot, will be among the first visitors to the mountainous Guizhou Province in the south. The tour price is £895.

The Yunnan Explorer, a 15-day trip costing £660, visits recently opened regions of the southwest near the borders with Laos and Burma; the going is expected to be tough. All prices include internal transport, guiding and accommodation, but not food (for which you should allow £110-£200), or flights.

BOATING specialist Blakes Holidays (01603 782141) is introducing DIY cruising on the Erie Canal, New York State, from April. The 108-mile voyage begins at Onondaga Lake, joins the Mohawk River, passing through farmland, forest and old Indian villages, with a "staircase" of locks leading into the Hudson River and the Champlain Canal. No boating experience is required as the locks are staffed. The canal was completed in 1825 and was responsible for opening up much of the west. A cruiser sleeping six costs £1,950 to hire for a week (excluding food and flights). From mid-November 1998, Blakes will launch similar boating holidays on St John's River in Florida.



Even in Vietnam, it is hard to escape the traffic jams. But a new motorbike tour will take you off the beaten track

Rock then roll

THE Hard Rock message is spreading to Bali, where a high-decibel hotel is due to open in Kuta, in the heart of the Australian "tinie" brigade's territory, next May. The Hard Rock Hotel will have its own recording studio and radio station, juke boxes and ceiling-mounted televisions in each of the 417 bedrooms, and headphones round the pool — which will be the largest on the island. Room service will be delivered by staff on in-line skates and rock'n'roll is threatened from the minute you enter the building.

The blurb claims this is the first hotel in the world to carry the Hard Rock imprint. However, since 1995 there has been a Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, under different management. We will leave them to fight

that one out. Room rates for the new hotel are not yet released, and for advance information you will have to contact Singapore (tel 00 65 734 5250, fax 00 65 738 8379).

Ancient sites

THE gradual easing of tension across much of the Middle East is helping to bring more of the wonders of the ancient world on to the traveller's itinerary. The new brochure from Jasmin Tours (0181-675 8886) includes a ten-day Phoenicians, Romans and Crusaders tour which links Byblos and Baalbek in Lebanon with Aleppo, Palmyra and Damascus in Syria. The price is £1,468.

An 11-day Bible Land trip, at £1,125, teams Jordan with Israel, Tours to Oman and Ethiopia, Egypt and Pakistan are also offered. "Train is almost a piece of

cake these days," says Jim Smith, the managing director, who runs a 16-day tour to that country for £1,887. "You have to conform to the social code — with women always wearing headscarves — although these days you do occasionally see a quiff of hair showing."

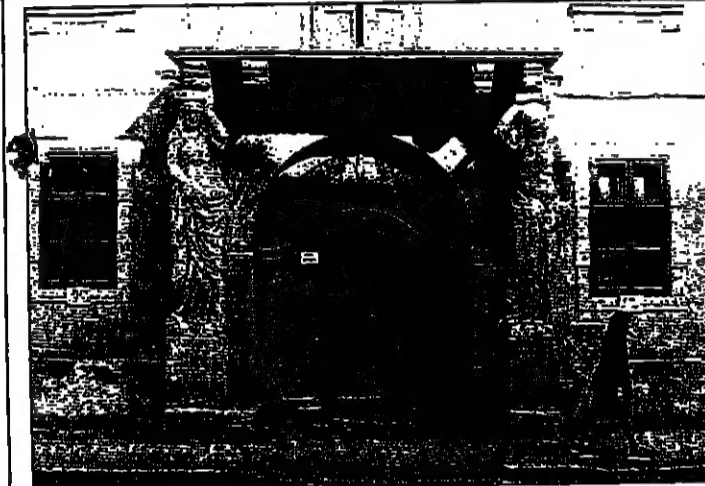
He has added Libya (a 15-day tour of the ancient sites costs £1,785) to his programme of potential trouble spots. And he has just escorted 85 members of the Royal British Legion and Royal Horse Artillery to Yemen for the 30th anniversary of the British departure from Aden.

"The recent spate of kidnappings has made a bit of a dent in our numbers to Yemen," admits Smith. "But our tours (£1,895 for 15 days) are well away from the trouble and a lot of people still want to go."

"Tours to Iraq? I don't suppose

we'd be allowed in," he adds, almost wistfully. Prices quoted include flights, visas and sightseeing and are mainly half-board.

FROM English Country Cottages, now owned by the Thomson Travel Group, comes Country Cottages in France (01282 445511), offering self-catering accommodation ranging from rural hideaways to villas with pools. Among the more unusual properties is a stone-built, beamed, former priest's house, La Presbiterie, next to the church situated in the Perigordian hamlet of Preysac d'Excideuil. The lavatory is in the old confessional. The house sleeps four and costs £264 for a week, rising to £526 in July and August, with ferry fares for a car and up to five passengers also included.



Passengers on the Orient Express will visit Romania

Britons to pay £35 for Kenya visa

BRITONS TO PAY £35 FOR KENYA VISA

Foreign Office has announced that from January 1, 1998, the cost of a Kenya visa for British citizens will increase from £25 to £35.

The increase is part of a global move by the Kenyan government to raise visa fees for all foreign nationals. The new fee is expected to help fund infrastructure projects and improve security in the country.

Travel agents and consulates will be notified of the change in advance. British citizens planning a trip to Kenya should ensure they have the necessary funds to cover the new visa cost.

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Travel continuing from page 24.

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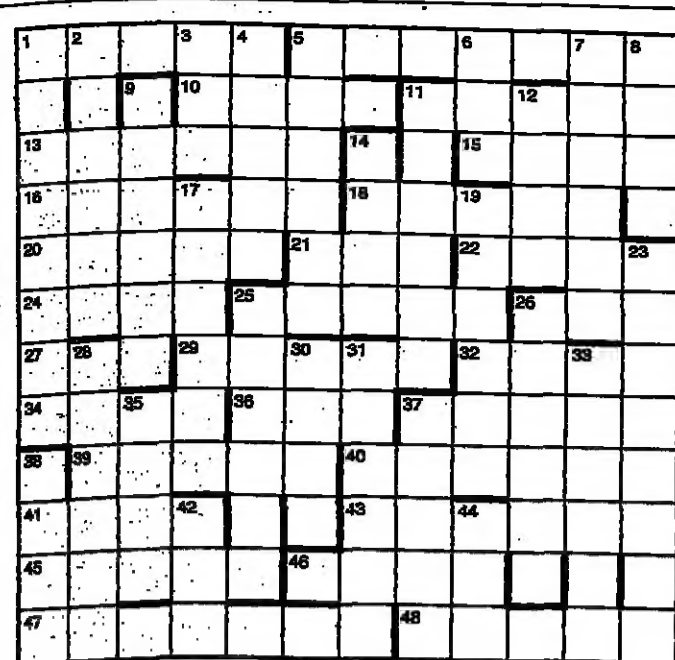
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The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

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EACH clue contains a redundant word that is to be ignored. The first letters of these (in clue order) provide a warning and advice.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Take smack to the South pole
 - 5 Wild sky picks one character off; orderly gives medicine (old)
 - 10 Tree that is entwined with sixty rings
 - 11 After the end of the burlesque a unit evicts someone of doubtful sexual behaviour
 - 13 Moved with right and left legs alternating; a doctor directed sedation
 - 15 Old bird that sounds young
 - 16 Snake in debt scraped living
 - 18 Resort district (for example) New Forest county folk is without one vacancy
 - 20 Bishop had one extra about castle
 - 21 Leave indeed! Name would be removed from currency
 - 22 Indian soldier who needs to involve revolutionary American soldier to complete unsavoury business
 - 24 Model something saucy with a bit of risk in it. Go on
 - 25 Sort of hen goes to church early for state of little change
 - 26 Romic character is in a mixed state
 - 27 Dedline office: one definition gives a clue for wolf
 - 29 Unusual pace; top finished; are extremely dry and hot
 - 32 More than one Spenserian word like this used to be a swearword
 - 34 Pluck; ginger; aggression
 - 35 This is subject to electric flow; motor is first put on
 - 37 Muddled doctor in old bacchanalian festival
 - 39 Within is a broad without the beginning of belief in God
 - 40 Berlin's ghetto ultimately involves contumely
 - 41 Sort of bush; see, it has a point for shelter underneath
 - 43 East Indian shot first inflicted Roman disaster
 - 45 Edges middle in May; toddler after succeeding first for sea
 - 46 Feeble back-up to state initiative
 - 47 Their job is to rake in easy money from suckers;

what Brian Johnson might have called Elvis Presley after a short time
48 Tremulous use for quill: joined up script

- DOWN**
- 1 One who looks round accomplished something for one who looks well
 - 2 River contains a mixture of spices
 - 3 Force back anomalous love
 - 4 New game for three with twelve cards for each trick
 - 5 Go about selling goods from a hamper, desiring former times back
 - 6 Turn out on adding chief island points
 - 7 Irritating gas includes a rudimentary thickness of atomic spacing to come together as parts of poem
 - 8 Break ground: one can hear a card game
 - 9 Take in seaman's bereaved relative
 - 11 A glit for the old poet; argument as starts for toper's cup (hooped)
 - 12 Old seers even including the last of many magi
 - 14 This fane immediately cleaves two articles in Greek goddess
 - 17 Shot pawn out: exercise training starts, darling
 - 19 Uses up; finishes for real: stands up base down and overthrows
 - 23 Once nearly top note for lyre is included, new one is kept off score
 - 25 Father's eavesdropping outside; one note diminishes in dull country town foolish young man swallows an overdose
 - 28 One to whom secret things are entrusted: sounds able to give shelter between walls
 - 30 Resounding sound; pick out the third in it: surge aloft leaving earth
 - 31 Astronomer lacks nothing a sort of thistle needs
 - 33 Potpourri de Gaulle suffers loss from leakage
 - 35 Trim back deans in some intimate places
 - 37 I don't follow a distressed penguin
 - 38 Empire state way over
 - 42 Might be electric intensity, in whole or in part
 - 44 The onset of spasmodic lateral movement for miners is not tolerable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48

Solution and notes for 3433
Four Halves by Piccadilly

Top half: P-3, R-2, 1-5, M-13, E-7, S-11
Bottom half: P-7, R-13, 1-2, M-11, E-3, S-5
Left half: P-2, R-11, 1-13, M-3, E-5, S-7
Right half: P-13, R-5, 1-11, M-7, E-2, S-3
Number bases: columns from left to right: 7, 4, 8, 11, 2, 9, 10, 3, 5, 6
Rows from top to bottom: 2, 5, 9, 11, 6, 3, 10, 8, 4, 7

The winner is D.A. Reid of Dorking, Surrey. The runners up are Sheila M. Perkins of Rushden, Northamptonshire; Stewart Fowle of Edinburgh; Pam Kellett of Pewsey, Wiltshire; S.E. Lewis of Knutsford, Cheshire; Terry Wells of West Chilton, Sussex.

In the solution to 3432 published last week, 13 across should have read BNETUM and 40 down should have read KELTIC

THE Italians have won the last two Open European Championships, a round robin event consisting of 25 or so short matches, but they do not seem to do so well in long matches. They qualified for the knockout phase of the 1996 Olympiad and the 1997 Bermuda Bowl, but in each case were immediately eliminated. Their match against Norway in the Bermuda Bowl quarter-final went down to the last few boards, with Norway just emerging victorious. On the last board Italy managed a great coup, but it was not quite enough. Try the hand as a defensive problem. You are East.

Dir West East-West game IMPs

This was the full deal:

32	1087	AKJ9876	4	AK107	10852	Q104	763	AKJ84	AKJ93	53	92	AS65	4	2	AKOJ1085
----	------	---------	---	-------	-------	------	-----	-------	-------	----	----	------	---	---	----------

The effect of the diamond return was to remove the only entry to dummy. On the play of any other card the declarer (Helgemo, the world individual champion) would have been home. He wins the return, draws trumps and then finesses the jack of diamonds to make the extra trick he needs for his contract. As it was, the best Helgemo could do was to cash his ten tricks, and go two down. There are a couple of points in the bidding. First, notice that North passed on the first round of the auction. That was because his hand was too strong for a pre-empt in the modern style. Second, Helgemo's double of East's One Heart opening would not be every expert's choice — often it works better on this sort of hand to bid your long suit first and hope to get your second suit in later.

Certainly, Double was the bid that propelled the partnership into the wrong spot. Five Diamonds might have made, even on the best defence of the lead of two rounds of hearts.

The Times Book of Bridge 1, by Robert Sheehan, is available from bookshops, or from Batsford (01376 321276) at £6.99 plus £1 p.p.

WORD ANSWERS

- CASEMATE**
(b) A vaulted defence chamber built in the rampart of a fortress.
- BIDARKA**
(b) In Alaska and adjacent regions, a portable canoe for one or more people, a type of kayak.
- BANDURA**
(b) A lutelike instrument. The folk instrument of the Ukraine.
- BIEDERMEIER**
(a) Applied attributively to the period between 1815 and 1848 in Germany and to styles, furnishings, etc.
- Answers from page 36

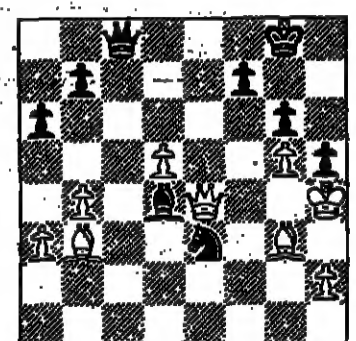
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

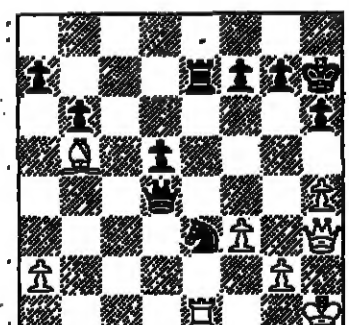
THANKS to everyone who has written in recently with queries and comments on the Winning Move positions from this column. Your most recent batch of suggestions has been particularly fruitful and I shall be publishing six of the best.

A week and next.

I start off with a neat situation from a game by grandmaster Richard Reti, whose book of masterpieces (edited by Harry Golombek) has recently been issued. Our first extract was published as a Winning Move on October 20.



Black to play. This position is from the game Reti-Sterk, Vienna 1910. Black is two pawns ahead and should win easily. However, it is always a good idea to finish off quickly if possible and that is exactly what Black did here. Can you work out how he did it?



The solution as given was as follows: 1... Ng4 2 Qg3 (2 Rxf7 Nf2+ wins the queen) 2... Nf2+ and Black wins.

E. Dilley of Hereford points out, quite rightly, that after 1... Ng4 2 Rxf7 although 2... Nf2+ wins the white queen, a more incisive finish is 2... Qd1+ which forces mate.

The following was the final position from the game Onischuk-Swidler, Tilburg 1997, published in The Times on October 16.

Peter Swidler is the new young star of Russian chess. He shot to fame on the international scene by sharing first prize at the important Tilburg competition in Holland, defeating Garry Kasparov in the process. In this finish from one of his games, some readers were puzzled as to why Swidler's opponent threw in the towel.

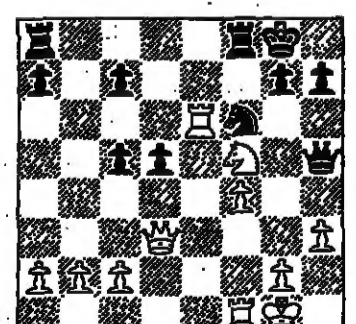
Here White resigned. Mr Cook of Essex suggests that White could have fought on with the bishop retreat 39 Bdl. This is an imaginative proposal which would permit White to fight on after 39... Nxe1 40 Qxd4.

However, Black has a complete riposte. 39 Bdl would in fact be met by 39... Nf5+ 40 Kh3 Nd6+ winning the white queen.

The final position this week was given as a Winning Move on October 21. Once again it is a small gem by that great master of chess artistry Richard Reti.

White to play. This position is from the game Reti-Sterk, Vienna 1910.

Here White's active pieces created the opportunity for a quick finish. Can you see how he broke through?



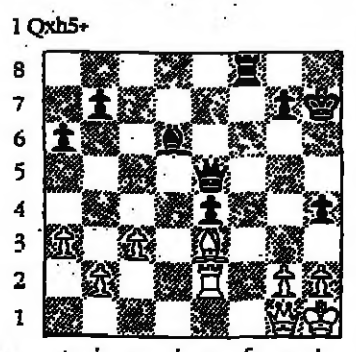
Solution: 1 Rxf6! gxf6 (1... Rxf6 2 Qxd5+ and the rook on a8 goes) 2 Qg3+ Kf7 3 Qg7+ Ke6 4 Qxd8 Rxd8 5 Ng7+ with a winning material advantage.

P. Young of Dover cleverly indicates an alternative finish for White after 1 Rxf6! gxf6 2 Qg3+ Kf7 3 Qg7+ Ke6 with 4 Qe7+ Kd5 5 g4+ and the black queen is lost.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Black to play. This position is from the game Demidenko - Blaurot, Budapest 1997. White's king is very constricted and the black forces are well centralised. How did Black make the most of his chances? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Send responses to Winning Move, The Times Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9DN. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's competition:



Last week's winner was V. Chirwal, Whitmore Park, Coventry.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

NOT THAT long ago the entire world seemed to be plugged into the Internet to share sadness and condolences following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In contrast, little has appeared so far to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's golden wedding anniversary.

Using the Yahoo search engine, the phrase Queen Elizabeth UK produces only ten sites, of which three are dedicated to the Cunard cruise liner, three are profiles of Queen Elizabeth I, who died in 1603, and one is a reunion page dedicated to tracing former pupils of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Penrith. The three remaining sites are a short profile of the Queen, a report about the Coronation and Queen Elizabeth II "FAQ" (or, Frequently Asked Questions).

The latter (<http://www.mun.ca/library/ref/qe/qefaq.html>) explains that the Queen has several titles, although in the United Kingdom her official moniker is: Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith. This must make signing cheques hell.



Souvenir site: coins and cups commemorate the golden wedding

In its way this page could really be called 14 Things You Never Knew About The Queen, including why she has corgis as pets. "This is a continuation of a long family tradition begun by her father, King George VI, who kept several corgis. Corgis have since become the symbol of the present Royal Family," we are told.

The site also answers questions with a succinct charm, including the royal line of succession (viz Charles, William, Henry, Andrew, Bearice, Eugenie, Edward and Anne).

Although unofficial, this page also has a hot link to the official British Monarchy Web site (<http://www.royal.gov.uk/>), where

the anniversary appears to be passing without fanfare.

ANOTHER Web site, (<http://www.uncover.com/ea2caapu.htm>) starts optimistically enough: "Fifty years ago, on November 20, 1947, Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten were married at Westminster Abbey. The elaborate ceremony was a welcome event, bringing cheer to war-torn Britain and capturing the attention of the entire world."

Then follows the reason for the site: "This year the royal couple's golden wedding anniversary is being honoured with a beautiful commemorative coin. Minted in solid cupronickel by the British Royal Mint, the brilliant uncoloured £5 coin captures the Queen and her husband side by side in handsome profile."

The coin comes in a presentation folder, with a souvenir booklet and at \$29.50 we are advised, "a majestic acquisition". Anniversary merchandising crops up on another site, that of Lincoln's Niche Solutions (<http://www.4thwall.com/kate/pages/niche.html>). On offer here is a 9cm-high bone china commemorative cup made in Stoke, Berkshire, decorated in blue,

gold and "for that finishing touch, each cup is richly hand-embellished with 22 carat gold". This runneth over at £12.95 a time.

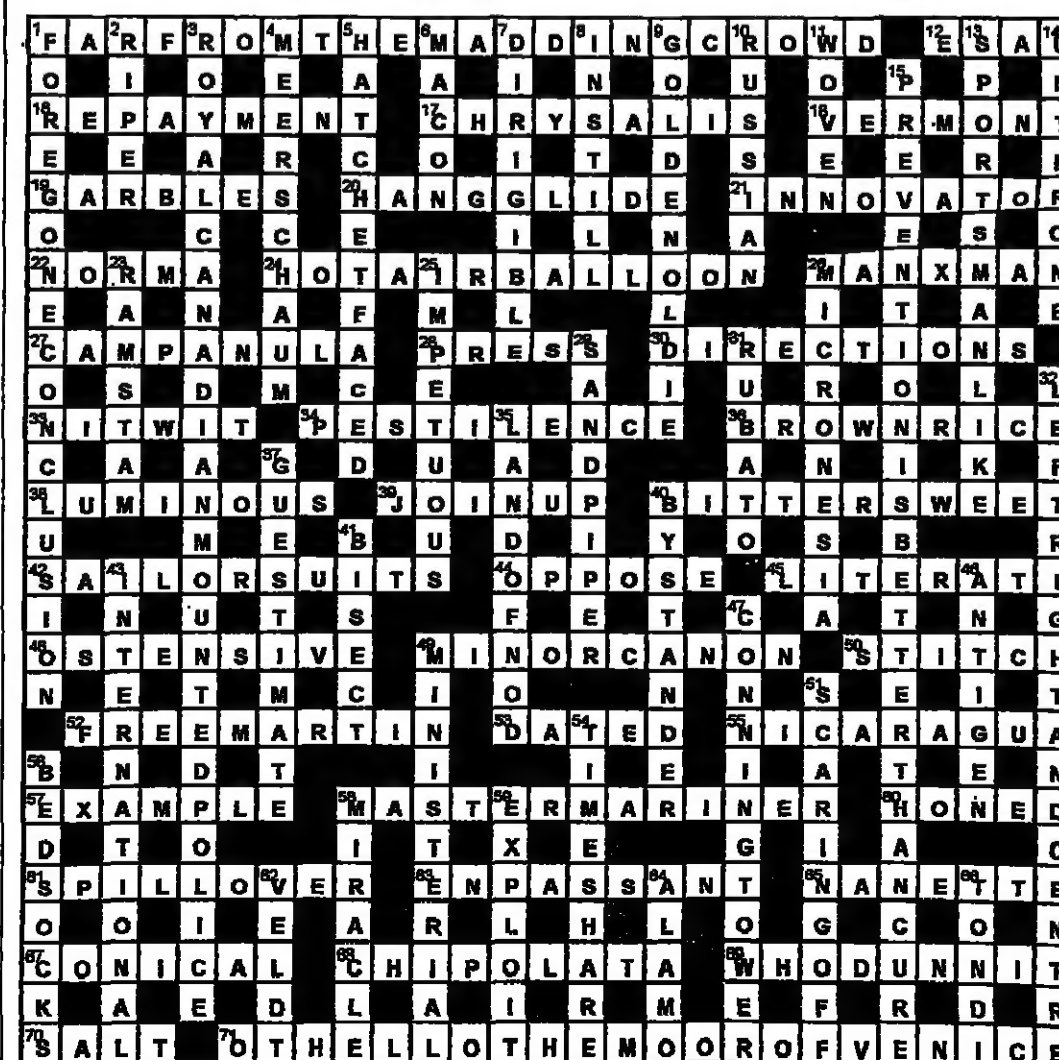
If you access this column through the Internet edition of The Times (<http://www.the-times.co.uk>), hot links whisk you directly to all Web sites mentioned.

AND congratulations to our winners of CyberSpace Thirty Seven, each of whom scoops 100 minor games on 25 budget CD-Roms from Prism Leisure. They are John Davenport from Tyldesley, Manchester; Nicola Gebbels from Kenilworth, Warwickshire; and R. Elliott from Newcastle upon Tyne.

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

From page 36
Question 1: Baikal is a lake. Rhine, Seine, Thames, Nile and Tigris are rivers.
Question 2: Polyphemus is the one-eyed cyclops. Slepjir was the eight-legged horse of Wotan. Slobol is the eight-legged spider in Lord of the Rings. The Kraken is a tentacled squid and Braxos had 100 arms.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 134



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Alex J.R. Makenzie, of St Andrews, Fife

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q When stuck with a twerp at a party who is trying to impress by dropping names, is it better to risk seeming competitive by stating straight away that one knows the people in question well, or should one just smile and say nothing? This can be embarrassing, if the degree of friendship is later disclosed. — Mary Jane Holley, Sussex.

A Name-dropping is done by the socially insecure in the sad belief that it impresses. In most cases it is best ignored, as little deflates the name dropper more than indifference. However, in cases you describe it is kind to hint gently that you know the person mentioned.

Q My daughter will soon celebrate her seventh birthday. If we invite her classmates, friends outside school and family to a party it adds up to numbers we have neither space nor wish to entertain. What can we do to save face with the other mothers and give our little girl a treat? — AFM, London, SW4.

A Maybe it's time for a change from the traditional children's party. By seven children have often tired of jellies and party hats and have developed their own close friends. So how about suggesting a really special birthday outing for her closest chums? The other mothers will quite understand that it is not feasible to include an army of children on such a scheme.

Q On being introduced to a lady, should a gentleman extend his hand for a handshake? I have always thought it tactful to shake hands only if the lady proffers her hand first. What should a gentleman do, however, if introduced to several men and women? Could you also please clarify the correct etiquette to follow when making introductions? Is the lady introduced to the gentlemen, or is it vice-versa? What if one is older than the other, or of a higher social standing? — Kevin M. Ryan, Belper, Derbyshire.

A The conventions around hand-shaking have changed. At one time it was good form for a man to wait until the female paw was proffered: not to do so was considered poor form and pushy. Although this is still the case when meeting women of the older generation, it is now usual for men to offer their hand straight away regardless of the other person's sex. When making introductions the general guide is that men are presented to women (unless the girl is very young and the man old and distinguished), juniors to seniors, and single women to married ones. People with titles, unless royal, take

no social precedence over those without them.

Q A male friend (platonic) invited me to go to a party with him. The day before the party he rang to cancel, saying something had come up. I heard from friends a couple of days later that he actually did go to that party and had taken another woman. As he and I are just good friends, I'm not at all bothered that he wanted to spend time with a woman who might be of serious date potential, but I am offended that he lied to me. When is it all right to up-in-vite someone to a function, if ever? How does one do it tactfully? — Anne Fousse, London SE1.

A Never, unless there is a seriously acceptable reason that can honestly and legitimately be explained to the canceller without causing offence, such as: "I am terribly sorry, but I had completely forgotten that I had already promised to take my mother-in-law", or in the case of a corporate gathering: "My boss has twisted my arm to escort the wife of an important client who is in town."

In such cases, the person who has gracefully acquiesced to being disinvented needs to be rewarded with an alternative enticing date, sooner rather than later.

Q Is the son of a life peer "Rt Hon" in his father's lifetime only?

— Marion Davis, London W1.

A The son of a life peer is never a "Rt Hon", unless he is a member of the Privy Council. He is correctly styled as "Hon" and this holds for the rest of his life.

Q My daughter is getting married in early December. Although it is going to be an informal affair, I am very nervous at the prospect. My problem is what part do I play? If I have to give a speech or a toast what do I say? I have no idea how to go about it. — Roy Forster, Stockport, Cheshire.

A The role of the father of the bride can often be summarised in three words: to welcome, thank and introduce. If you are a host, your name should appear on the invitation and you should greet guests; if not you should still circulate and chat to everybody present. Although not traditional, the custom of the bride's father making a speech is increasingly popular, and you might like to say a few words that will introduce the bride to the groom's side. This speech should also include thanks to the guests for coming and conclude with a toast to the bride and groom.

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ.

DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CASEMATE

- a. Defence counsel
- b. A defence structure
- c. Defence at chess

BIDARKA

- a. An auctioneer's gavel
- b. A canoe
- c. Photographic light filter

BANDURA

- a. A cigar
- b. A musical instrument
- c. A wrap-around

BIEDERMEIER

- a. A style of furniture
- b. A dangerous dog
- c. Tables for two

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

The 21st century will be dominated by brain power. Gaming and competence in games will become a very important aspect of wealth creation in the future." — Keith Bradley, Professor of International Management, Director of Business Research, The Open University Business School.

Question 1:2

Which is the odd one out? Kibab, Hiner, Isene, Mathes, Line, Stigir

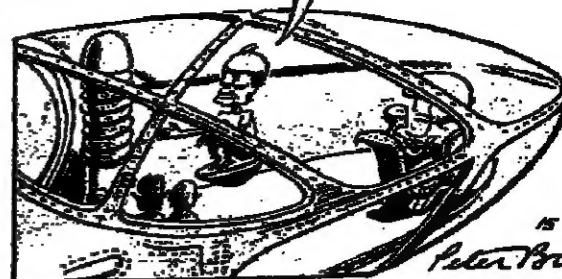
Question 2:

Match the following names and numbers: Polyphemus, Sleipnir, Braireos, Shelob, the Kraken 100, 8, 1, 10, 8

Answers on page 35.

RAYMOND KEENE

BUT ONE STAR GROUP IS ANATHEMA — AND MUST BE ELIMINATED!



DESTROY! DESTROY!



CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

The precise origins of the great art (Ars Magna) of forming anagrams are not known but go back at least as far as the Greeks. Throughout subsequent history anagrams of names have been used as means of flattery and denigration, as pseudonyms — and simply for amusement. Can you infer, for example, which author used the nom de plume "Alcofrabas Nasier", and which poet was praised as "greatest born idealist"? Samuel Butler's "Erewhon" is an anagram of "nowhere" and Dylan Thomas used an anagram in the original Greek sense (from ana = back and gramma = letter) in creating the village of Llaeregub under Milk Wood.

Enough history, this is an anatomy lesson. Except in the case of an "& Lit" type, an anagram clue should consist of a definition (at the beginning or the end), the letters to be rearranged, and an indicator to that effect. Such indicators include words and phrases indicating the letters are rearranged, drunk or disorderly, excited or crazy. Nouns such as "disaster" play this role, a practice not universally accepted in the crossword world. Ideally, all components of the clue should fit naturally together to suggest a consistent and plausible scenario.

After 70 years of cryptic puzzles, it is rare to discover a new anagram (did you know that

World Cup match is an anagram of talcum powder?) but with ingenuity it is still possible to be innovative. "Risk a wet tumble (5-3)" and "Odd if no males could be found here (4,2,3)" are examples of the & Lit genre. Occasionally it is possible to perpetrate a double anagram as in "We hate what repeatedly ruins this crop (5)". Another variation is alternative anagrams as in "Perversely start nine or ten trains passing (9)" and "Permit Oslo or Rome to slip badly as city". One final twist: "A rep given two orders means to come back (8)".

Answers to last week's clues: POUND, SWISS ROLL, PEASHOOTER, NEPOTISM, ELOPE

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what, the Queen Mother, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 20.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by John Deacon of East Finchley, London.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 136

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 136, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday November 24. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, November 27.

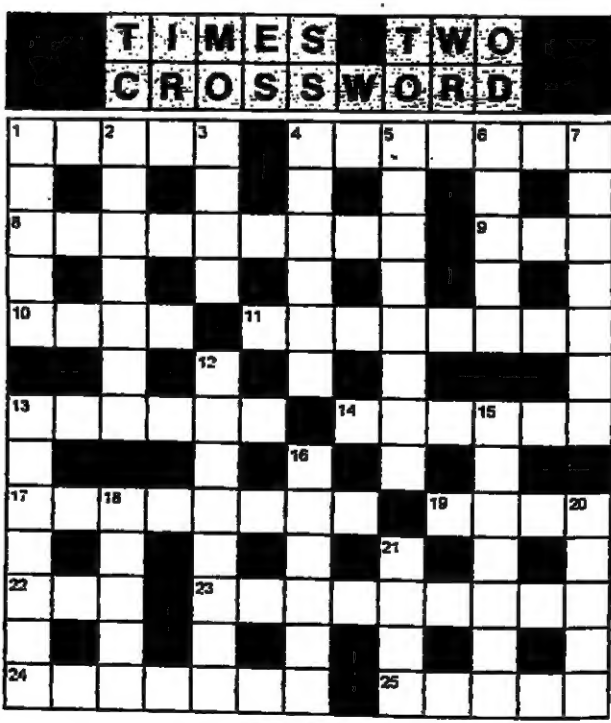
ACROSS

- 1 Friar Tuck, maybe, sees second person warning about lack of privacy (3,7,2,8,3)
- 15 Playwright Williams in a state (9)
- 16 Academic Italian, always one to make excessive money (9)
- 17 Boy that's imprisoned did wrong — one in a cave (7)
- 18 Welsh town house facing north in road with fifties style of thatch (7)
- 19A "Novel lads that have got paired off" (4,3,6)
- 20 Some admire Russia, returning more confident (5)
- 21 Like an old school that could make me learn yet (10)
- 22 Exclamation of disgust with street having a carnival (6)
- 24 Annoying fool that's rushing around (6)
- 27 Perhaps star in location for ravers in the small hours? (9)
- 29 A device for holding stock down (5-6)
- 30 Choose the French marinade (6)
- 32 Terrors we face — heat, possibly? One ought to know (7,10)
- 35 Eccentric people damage kitchenware (9)
- 37 Dine out with writer — hollow bohemian? (11)
- 38 Live with firm's normal procedure? (7)
- 40 Pester editor in foreign port (7)
- 41 Tribal child and dad face camera with nothing to hide (7)
- 43 Roman emperor deceived by king — single man, not married (7)
- 44 One fired for wrong question to suspicious-looking stranger (7,2,3)
- 47 What's sailor man wearing? (9)
- 48 Most important item scuppered indiscreet escapee (5,2,10)
- 49 A little walk — exercise, that's plain (6)
- 50 Grope curiously in bundle — some things one wouldn't touch (9)
- 52 Blows most effective when the sun shines? (9)
- 56 Loathing of French exams? (9)
- 57 Tiny part of the enemy? (6)
- 58 After part of New York, settle in a distant state (10)
- 61 Reprimand son, getting chilly (5)
- 63 Team's ruin then written about as absorbing feature in the paper (5,7)
- 66 Passes English, then fails to maintain standard (7)
- 67 Notice one model becoming "fatty" (7)
- 68 One close to home showing determination (2,7)
- 69 Indian warrior hides in Western — good idea! (9)
- 70 Brothers who were rattled one way or the other (10,3,10)

DOWN

- 1 Old lady in street with a lot of bread? (4,2,7)

- 2 Most keen new side received in welcome (9)
- 3 Once more begin showing skill after the break (7)
- 4 Tear around with certain floating voter — what will cross on paper indicate? (8,5)
- 5 No longer criticised when speaking, become more genial (6)
- 6 Is nothing good about old language being analytical? (9)
- 7 Curious dam built across River Dee (5)
- 8 A morally principled person completely lacking in spirit (11)
- 9 Junk seen in the bay? (5)
- 10 Number reaching a hot island, a refuge for couples (5,3)
- 11 Butler coming out with many dramatic lies (5)
- 12 Fluid discovered in forest shrubs creates a drama (5,4,4)
- 13 Fish one guts somehow, getting right inside (8)
- 14 Soldier turning up in foreign street after international plot (8)
- 23 Rob is brusque before transformation (5-6)
- 24 Hard fruit, not soft vegetable (7)
- 25 Stay inside, disease being persistent (8,3)
- 26 Referred item in classified section to paper's boss (9)
- 28 Liberationists around Ireland stirred up author (11)
- 31 A blooming great town? (6,4)
- 32 A dog and two cats? (7)
- 33 Fish in river within stylish university site (11)
- 34 A man — he cried out like the one who did in his bath (11)
- 36 Not all compliments in ceremony may be genuine (7)
- 39 American friend going round loud social event gets hit (8)
- 42 Fit not precise somehow? I must have things exactly right (1,3)
- 43 Accessory that's compact inside? (7)
- 45 Mined bauxite's nil, eh? Supply of ore may not be this (13)
- 46 Keen Wigan fans, when unruly, must be brought to book (9,4)
- 48 Describing motel in the case? (11)
- 49 Strange madness restricting one church official (8)
- 51 Improving immediately after those people finish (2,3,4)
- 53 Behaved like 8, having retired without blemish (9)
- 54 Bypass that is to be closed in September (8)
- 55 Bit of willow, apparently affected by heat, shrivelled up (8)
- 59 Ditched in English dance, once you stare (7)
- 60 Give the most convincing yell of pain (6)
- 62 Queen has managed without her essential mate (5)
- 64 What sounds like a month's crop (5)
- 65 Girl not quite free of emotional disorder (5)



No 1252

ACROSS

- 1 Odyssey author (5)
- 2 Ulysses — Grant Wallis — (7)
- 8 Decorations (9)
- 9 Tea-brewing vessel (3)
- 10 Consume by fire (4)
- 11 Have one leg either side of (8)
- 13 Comfort in distress (6)
- 14 Tough outside (as bread) (6)
- 17 Seaweed gelatin (4-4)
- 19 Placid (4)
- 22 First note of scale: sounds like flour/water (3)
- 23 Janitor, interim (office-holder) (9)
- 24 Rich (7)
- 25 Boundary of shrubs (5)

DOWN

- 1 Thermomolecular weapon (1-4)
- 2 Uncertain-pretence dog (7)
- 3 Play boisterously (4)
- 4 Upper House (6)
- 5 Slaughter (8)
- 6 Measure (sea) depth; valid (5)
- 7 Convent (7)
- 12 Short-tempered; poor-quality (LP) (8)
- 13 Fame, as entertainer (7)
- 15 Filled neatly (7)
- 16 Loathing (6)
- 18 Very pale (shocked face) (5)
- 20 Verge (poet); butter substitute (5)
- 21 Restless desire (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1251

- ACROSS: 8 Aquaria 9 Essex 10 Cuthroat 11 Ali
12 Swam 14 Treadle 15 Almanac 17 Juror 19 Con
20 Reluctant 22 Insert 23 Ice cube
- DOWN: 1 Caucus 2 Hurt 3 Archimandrite 4 Ragout
5 Leather/jacket 6 Islander 7 Expire 13 Admonish
15 Arctic 16 Calais 18 Rather 21 Ague

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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